**NPC Welding Advisory Board Meeting**

**Silver Creek Campus—LC133**

**May 11, 2017**

**3p-5p**

In-Person— Frank Pinnell, NPC Faculty/Chair; Christopher Susag, APS; Curtis Casey, NPC Emeritus/Welding Consultant/CAID Industries; Randy Hoskins, NPC Faculty; Wes King, NPC faculty; John Spaduccini, NPC Manager of Career Services; Kevin Westfall, CAID Industries, Carrie Jordan, NAVIT; Peggy Belknap, NPC Dean of CTE

Note Taker: Pamela Dominguez

Minutes were reviewed and approved.

**Welcome/Introductions**:

Frank welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

**Graduating Class Numbers-Summer Offerings:**

Fifty-seven students graduated with AWS, NCCER, and some with OSHA10 cards. Summer welding classes are being offered at WMC and PDC half-tuition and faculty receive regular pay. Peggy reviewed the summer and fall enrollment numbers at the different locations. Classes that are in danger of cancelling; we are trying to combine the enrollment. Enrollment numbers look strong from NAVIT. Faculty encourage students to continue their education to earn twelve credits to finish their Associate of Applied Science. Different scholarships are offered for NAVIT students to help pay for the last 12 credits. The Talon classes are offered at the high school which offer concurrent credits to help students get their 12 credits. The NAVIT program versus the high school program are a big difference in experience. NAVIT spends more time with their students compared to the high schools. Kevin invited students to come tour CAID and assist with mock interviews.

**SkillsUSA Report:**

**Regionals**—NPC hosted the SkillsUSA Regionals Region 4 at various locations. Welding was held in Holbrook. We had 48 competitors post-secondary, 6 fabrication teams. We had judges from TEP, Praxair, and Zachry.

**State**—We didn’t have as many medals as in years past; but we ended up with a third place for a student in Randy’s shop WMC in secondary. We got the gold in fabrication those students are from Frank’s shop STJ in secondary. Our fabrication team is now eligible to go to nationals. We had 25 medals total for the college. Industry can volunteer to be a judge. Instructor judges vs industry judges was discussed. Instructors watching over students and judging was a concern. Having industry be the judges has always been part of the appeal and seeing our students as possible employees will be lost. One of our students received an envelope with a job offer. At the world, instructors are the judges. The location being changed for the state competition was discussed. The main reason was the cost of electricity.

**Nationals**—Fabrication team will be going to nationals.

Wes’s students PDC competed at Welding Thunder and took third in fabrication.

**Next Year**—NPC will host SkillsUSA Regionals Region 4 next year.

**College & Community Welding Projects:**

Organizations can fill out NPC’s application for Community Projects. The application needs to be approved. we need to be careful with the taxpayer’s money or compete with local business that support our programs. The projects give students timelines and timeframes. At Randy’s shop, WMC built three bus shelters partnered with a grant from ADOT which they used for SkillsUSA Leadership using their criteria. The material/consumables are provided by the applicant. We had a fallen officer and we were asked to make a stand; the award will be displayed in a museum in Washington D.C. Pet Allies has a limited budget (Lowes donated materials) the students made a set of steps for their storage trailer. We built a derby car to participate in the Show Low Derby Down the Deuce for advertising. Frank’s shop STJ built a stage for the NPC play. Wes’s PDC students build a lot of signs, awards and will be working on refurbishing steps and railings for the Petrified Forest. Two programs ATO and WLD WMC worked together to build a float to enter in the Show Low Christmas Parade with snowflakes that twirled from fire from the smoke pipes. Wes’s WLD PDC built a float to enter in the Holbrook Christmas parade. We are getting more involved with the community and it is good publicity. Pictures of the projects were passed around.

**Donation—Metals:**

Steel and gases are some of our biggest expenses. CAID brought a pallet of metal. Dean from the Pipefitters has pre-beveled groupons, stainless steel and some other things that he is going to donate to us. Page Steel helped with steel for our SkillsUSA. Lincoln Electric really helped with prizes for SkillsUSA. Praxair donated, but not as much as in years past. NPC Friends and Family is our tax differed 501c; Betsy Ann Wilson is the contact and she will send out a thank you letter with the value for tax purposes. Jerry Siko from Lincoln Electric was not able to attend but wanted to remind NPC about the AWS portal for filler material (save half on consumables). John Weber from Lincoln Electric was also not able to attend. Peggy thanked industry not just for their donations; put their time. Peggy thanked faculty for all their extra time that they donate. Carrie asked if the in-kind time and donations could be tracked for NAVIT. The legislature does understand how much time it takes for these programs. Frank thanked Christopher for his time that he puts in to keep us certified for all our programs.

**Industry Updates**:

**CAID**—They had another fifth good year. Currently, CAID has 16 students working for them—3 are from NPC.   
We are doing well with students and would like to keep it up. I have a new assistant, Chad, he is brand new and he will be traveling with me. You should be interacting with him in the next six months to a year. CAID is engaging more locally. Robin Larsen who spearheaded AMPA is running out of federal money. NPC students were offered to job shadow or weld test at CAID (students need proof of insurance and sign a waiver). It would be one 8-hour day. It would be more beneficial to stretch it out to a day and a half. The students do not need to go with an instructor. The max of 3 students at a time.

**State Advisory**—Sam Colton has stepped down as a co-chair. As an advisory board we have been focusing on placement of students going full circle in to industry specific for welding job portal specific to our region. We have found FuturesInc.com they created a 40-million-dollar platform to help place veterans once they get out of the military. They have taken that reconfigured it to students right out of high school that would like to be placed in different industries. Maricopa County has dedicated 6 million dollars over the next three years to run a program that is basically a match.com for students and employers at no cost. Will it be expanded outside the region? Employers and students will have access to each other’s profile. They will have quarterly hiring events to get job seekers and employers together (speed dating basically) on that one day. Or if they wanted to hire someone in between these events they can contact them directly. When I say full circle, as a committee to ask with all these different platforms that are out, some are not successful and some are. Is it really even our job as a state advisory committee to try and push this? As a state point of view, we can get something like this and offer it, but it really comes down to the local level of what you guys have relationships with the local employers. Making sure that you keep your industry contact list up-to-date and contact them on a regular basis. The people that want to work or have something to do afterwards already have it lined out whether it’s the military, mission, college or a job. John and Casey discussed job boards with the goal of one vendor job board for all colleges and high schools. Underwater welding school called Commercial Divers International, Inc. in Goodyear that costs $250 for a half-day experience, but for faculty it is free. A group size of 12-14 people is because it takes about an hour per person. Prevailing wages for underwater welding is $50 per hour for a helper $100 per hour for a welder.

**APS**—Is hiring and will plan on hiring in the next few years. Cholla will shut down in 2025. APS is investing in the valley and four corners. We are looking at hiring 20 people a year for the next five years up at four corners and probably at least that in the valley. We’re updating some of our plants down there. There looking at doing some fossil internships. We are looking at 50% to 60% of our people could retire today due to an aging workforce and most of them are welders. We are going to need welders with the four levels of NCCER which NPC teaches. Cholla employees will be dispersed and need to possibly relocate. We have hired a lot of students for operation from NPC’s IMO program. Peggy stated we have a lot of crossing between what we call Industrial Maintenance Operations (IMO) that was really designed with our power plants in the area and APS until this past year we were on their plant site. They have been hiring some of our students that have cross trained by taking courses in welding and industrial maintenance operations. Chris stated that APS really sees the value of these programs. Peggy stated that TEP and SRP has hired over 30 NPC students.

**NAVIT**—It was rewarding to see the students and hear their goals for the future. If you can document your time, donations and wish lists, we can show the legislature how important it really is that we partner with industry.

**New AWS S.E.N.C.E.:**

They have one full-time and two-part time people. They changed the whole website, the way we report in to them, the whole way we’re going to test. They say we can still do of written test in our classrooms and we can turn it in, but they don’t have a place for us. Everything else is online it looks like it’s going to be hours of work for students. We are hearing from other schools in and out of our state everyone is frustrated with the SENCE organization. There is a group throughout the country of schools looking at filing a lawsuit against them. What will we do in the future? Is it really something that helps our student walk in the door for industry? Curtis stated with the new online requirements for SENCE are the classes need to be registered and enrolled online. But I have found some schools are actually waiting to the end of the semester to actually enroll them just like we would typically do with paper. I would caution if you do decide that SENCE no longer add value to the program that’s up to you. I have never heard of industry fellow saying if your SENCE certified will employ you; I have heard that about NCCER. The SENCE is a national organization that is why NPC originally got into SENCE to start with. If you do decide to let go of the SENCE program, make sure that your current students who are in the program and have signed up for the program and expect that make sure you transition them out. Frank stated that have not sent out a certificate in six months for the students that have finished the program.

Peggy asked industry if there is something we should be doing or equipment we need looking toward the future to make our students more employable? Curtis recommended the large wire sub to a fluxcore and NR232 3/32”/NR233 3/32” wire which is used a lot in industry. You want to be able to run 3/32” wire. Frank stated that we have on our capital budget in a couple years some bending machines to be able to teach shearing and bending and asked what they thought. Industry thought it was great and offered training. Industry recommended purchasing a 4ft or 6ft quarter inch thick carbon steel power roll. Students can learn the fundamentals on that. Adding Aerospace welding to the program so students can weld thin gauge stainless steel, titanium, 16-gauge aluminum or just expose students to it. An orbital welder was donated to NPC and we have it at PDC. We are waiting for the donor to come trains on it in August or September. Kevin stated that he has a person that can come and help train the faculty on it as well.

**Date for next meeting**:

The Fall meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 11 at 12p.