**NPC Welding Advisory Committee**

**May 12, 2016**

On the phone – Curtis Casey, CAID

In-Person— Randy Hoskins, Frank Pinnell, Wes King, NPC Welding Faculty; Peggy Belknap, NPC CTE Dean; John Spaduccini, NPC Career Services; Christopher Susag; APS, Jason; Matt Weber, Superintendent of NAVIT; Royce Kincanon, Community & Corporate Learning; Kevin Westfall, CAID; Jason Fata, CAID; Pamela Dominguez, Secretary to CTE Dean.

Minutes were approved.

**Shop Improvements**:

***WMC***— we upgraded four welding machines to Miller Dynasties and upgraded four booths. We also bought a Lincoln 600 amp welding machine that allows us to run 3-30 second dual shield wire. We replaced an iron worker and an additional pipe beveller (which we are going to convert that to plasma beveling). We had a donation from the Pipefitters Union of stainless steel. We made our fabrication tables’ user friendly. We moved our storage container closer to our building were we store our equipment not used every day.

***PDC***—our equipment and shop are still in good shape. We did purchase some plasma cutters and made five plasma cutting booths. We received a new iron worker, tractor torch beveling machine, and a 40 ft. storage container (to store our metal and equipment not used every day). I plan on adding two welders to the plasma booths to help with overflow.

***STJ***— we got an 80 ton iron worker and replaced a couple of welders to Dynasty 280. We purchased a diesel trailblazer. We bought air dryers for our compressors at all locations to help with consumables.

**Updates On**:

***Courses***—Welding redesigned our courses with a better rollout. We added a plastic course as an elective. We added boiler makers, pipefitters and an advanced aluminum courses to the curriculum so students can get certified in them as well.

Matt—spoke how the new brochures with the new sequencing are being distributed already. He spoke how NAVIT vets their students. NAVIT works with ten high schools. Each high school looks at attendance, behavior, grades, and their four year career plan. NAVIT prefers 2.0 GPA. The students need to be on track to graduate. Industry noted the NPC students stand out and have the soft skills needed to succeed.

Curtis—NCCER training has become a recognized standard in the nation.

Chris noted that NCCER training is required at APS for journey men level throughout the whole state.

Matt—Senate bill 1525 that was approved; one of the requirements is to have a national certificate.

Curtis gave a brief history of NCCER becoming part of NPC’s programs.

***Graduating Class***—we had 52 completers; some are already working.

***Skills needed—***we are addressing the need to teach with heavy wire flex core and simulating live timed test sessions with a ten page set of rules. We listened to industry and are going to teach rollers, bending and brakes. It takes time to get approval of capital equipment.

***Enrollment/offering***—we have waiting lists for classes. We are offering summer classes (tuition half-off) and night classes. You can take 5 credits a semester. Students can have more ARC time which makes a difference.

***SkillsUSA***—we successfully hosted for the first time SkillsUSA Regionals Region 4 competition. Welding was held in PDC. We had fifty competitors. We had four teams for fabrication. We had our SkillsUSA State competition and we won silver in welding fabrication. We will hopefully host SkillsUSA regionals for the next three years.

***Employment Opportunities***—if the students are willing to move, there is employment opportunities. Students have solid leads. We have three power plants locally but not all students can get employment there. Jobs.com, Craig’s List and College Central all have job offerings. Multi-career paths might be an option.

**Needs for Part-time Instructors/Subs:**

We need adjunct/substitute welding instructors to teach up to nineteen hours a week. We welcome guest speakers to share their experience and knowledge in industry.

**Industry Updates**:

***CAID***—there should be multi-career field path for welding students. After the two years of becoming as general welder, students should continue and take courses to become more specialized. Students should be encouraged to continue to focus on the different specialties in welding. Looking at things from a global perspective, near shoring, vocational skills are coming back in a big way. Employees need to walk with a purpose at work, self-starters, efficiency, and stay on task. Millennials jump jobs for a couple dollars. They don’t realize how much money in training we put in to them. Business has picked up. We just hired two students and have 2 openings for experienced welders and 1 more student. CAID will like to look into being an NCCER sponsor for their employees.

***APS***—Cholla power plant is in limbo, we have a hiring freeze. Apprenticeship committee has NCCER curriculum on the books. APS is hiring at Four Corners and in the valley. There is an aging workforce. Look at pennaclewest.com for new job postings. New hires can test in at a journey man level or apprenticeship program. APS is our corporate NCCER sponsor. Curtis is a Master Trainer. You need to have a master trainer on site to be an Arizona Teaching Educational Facility (ATEF).

***Curtis***— corporations do not have the time to dedicate to being a NCCER sponsor. It has been discussed to have the state become a NCCER sponsor of all the ATEF. Sundt construction is building over the next four years. CAID industry has been a liaison with our education.

***John***—Navajo nation and Hopi will be hiring.

***Peggy***—thanked everyone for their support. The welding faculty are amazing and care about their students. Students keep in touch with their instructors and were they are working.

***Wes***—thanked CAID for being a good industry partner.

***Randy***—thanked everyone for everything they do.

**Date for next meeting**:

Friday noon September 23.