**NPC Welding Advisory Board Meeting**

**Silver Creek Campus—PAC Lobby**

**May 9, 2019**

**2p-4p**

In-Person— Frank Pinnell, NPC Faculty/Chair; Randy Hoskins, NPC Faculty; Wes King, NPC Faculty; Kevin Westfall, NPC Faculty; Peggy Belknap, NPC Dean of CTE; Tom Zeigler, CAID Industries; Jason Fata CAID Industries; Adam White, U-Haul; Kevin Brady, U-Haul; Scott Newby, TEP; Carrie Jordan, NAVIT; Becky Ball, NPL; Ken McLaughlin. NPL; Karen Zimmerman, NPC High School Coordinator

Note Taker: Pamela Dominguez

**Welcome/Introductions**:

Frank welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

**Summer:** Two locations (PDC & WMC) are offering Welding courses. The longer hours are being offered to help the students finish. Metal Art courses are also being offered.

**SkillsUSA Report Regional, State, Nationals:** NPC hosted SkillsUSA Regionals competition with a record number of students with 19 high schools competing. SkillsUSA State competition results were: Welding Sculpture took golds in secondary and postsecondary. Welding Fab took silver in secondary. Welding Individual took silver and bronze in postsecondary and bronze in secondary. Gold winners are going to compete in SkillsUSA Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky this June.

**College & Community Welding Project:** The College receives community project applications from local agencies. St. Johns and WMC students worked on projects for a local fire station. In the past, students have worked on bus shelters and trash cans for Show Low. WMC students partnered with ATO to build a float to participate in Show Low’s Christmas parade. PDC students also built a float for Holbrook’s Christmas parade and won the *Best Overall* award. Peggy mentioned how faculty are also involved with committees and meetings besides teaching students. Randy handed out NPC’s Career Focus which features one of our welding students on the cover. Inside the Career Focus, our industry partners are featured. Frank, Wes, and Randy invited industry to their shops to perform mock interview with students, promote their business, and teach students. Faculty take their students to tour industry to see what real life is.

**Donations—Metal/Increasing Prices:** Faculty thanked industry for their donations; not just for materials but for their time to come to the completer’s ceremony, advisory boards meetings and their shops. Praxair and Miller Electric spent time with students to showoff industry’s lasted technology. Some students were able to complete their assignments with the new technology. Randy mentioned the welding night classes and would like industry to come to them as well. In one day, industry can see up to sixty students.

**Industry Updates:**

**CAID:**  Jason mentioned employment and retention are always a challenge. Employees are moving on after two plus years with no reason why they are leaving. CAID is working on keeping employees longer by changing their wage structure, offering TIG classes, and other formalized classes. CAID is offering supervisor training for their leads. Tom thanked NPC and the instructors for allowing CAID to come the classrooms. CAID is continuing to grow. CAID is looking for welders, machinists, and programmers. Samuel, Son & Co. acquired CAID a year ago and there are other employment opportunities; you would need to speak to Tom directly. CAID was up here for three days; they made five offers and hired three. Tom suggested exposing students to super alloys-what it is and what it looks like.

**UHAUL:** Kevin mentioned he tested three to four NPC students; they seemed knowledgeable and confident. He appreciates the knowledge instructors are instilling. Frank mentioned having a student that U-Hauled hired speak to all three locations letting other students know U-Haul is a great place to go to work. Adam mentioned U-Haul is looking for eight welders and a robot operator. MIG is the only welding they do, but TIG is important too. Adam retrains all the welders no matter where they come from to insure everybody is on the same level. Our entrance exam is at a fourth grade level. It would help if students were taught to grind with soft pads. U-Haul is trying to use robotic automation; welders will still be needed to inspect and correct what is coming off the robots. I don’t won’t programmers for the robots. It would be great if you can teach students to be gentle removing nozzles- not to bend the nozzles or abuse equipment. When Adam does his cert test, when he says do it in five passes, and you do it in three, you fail. It is to be sure directions are being followed.

**NAVIT:** Carrie thanked faculty for a great year and industry for all their donations.

**NPC High School Coordinator:** Karen let industry know that some students travel 55 miles to campus and some come from difficult circumstances. Karen also thanked industry for helping and hiring our students.

**TEP:** Scott mentioned TEP hired twelve operator trainees that came from NPC. In November and December, TEP will be looking for ten to twelve new hires. TEP has four mechanical apprentices and four electrical apprentices. TEP is looking to hire four welders; job offers were made to three-need one more. TEP’s pipeline is not directly to NPC and NAVIT, in three years the NAVIT program will have a bigger influence then our pipeline will expand in to NPC’s program.

**NPL:** Ken mentioned NPL is replacing an aging infrastructure of the natural gas lines. NPL is moving a lot of gas lines. Arc welding on ¾ “pipeline and up is primarily what NPL uses. Randy mentioned students rig out and start out at as helpers. It would be great if one of your welders come to our shop and show our students what they do. Ken mentioned that students could tour welders working in the field. Randy offered his shop for welders who need to re-cert so students can see. Ken will look in to that. Plastic welding is done with heat fusion. Employees having a poor work ethic is an issue and also not being able to fill out an application. Interviews are set up and 50 percent never show. New hires go through a week long orientation (NPL pays for the hotel) which some fail the drug test. Becky mentioned getting qualified people that actual want to work is an issue. Our turnover is low, once we get them through the first 90 days. No call, no show happens a lot. Welding students participate in what it would cost to live on their own to help learn life skills. Randy sees a difference in students in the two year span.

Kevin mentioned that faculty need to keep teaching soft skills; it is as important as theory and hands on. Students need to have more arc and sub arc time (for high production companies). Offering a Saturday class for students to get more arc/sub arc time would be great. Welding automated processes using Orbital TIG welders and Jimmy Jammers would be something to look into going forward. *Handbook of ARC Welding* by Lincoln is a good reference. CAID does a lot of cross training. Minutes will be sent for approval through email. Once approved, minutes will be archived on the website. HLC, our accreditor, will be visiting November 19-20, 2019.

**New Equipment:** A new skill center will be built at WMC. WLD WMC will be moved there. The college purchased for all three locations Roller and Positioner Welders so students can do their 1G in wire. All locations received new layout fab tables and Rigid Pipe Beveller. WMC received a plasmacam. Randy mentioned the college supports our program, but we need to be frugal. When we receive donations, it changes the world. Superior has donated five pallets that we will go pick up on May 23. We use it and reuse it. Scott mentioned a wish list be emailed to him.

**Date for Next Meeting:** Fall meeting will be on Thursday, October 17 in-person at Snowflake NPC and will be available through teleconference.