

# **Construction Advisory Committee**

Minutes

## **Northland Pioneer College**

5/13/2024 5:30 pm

NPC Snowflake Campus

LC101

**Minutes:** Jeanette Hancock

**Attendance:** Jeanette Hancock, Frank Pinnell, Jorge Meza, Chris Pasterz, Ben Sandoval, Jeremy Raisor, Daniel Prestwich, Jeff LeFevre, Christopher Susag, Don Fillingim, Matt Weber, Terril Kay, Craig Boston, Mark Pachta, Gary Patterson, and Joe Costion.

### **Dinner was provided**

*NPC Provides, Supports, and Promotes Lifelong Learning.*

## **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Frank Pinnell welcomed everyone. These advisory meetings are held to see what is going on in industry, helps us know what we need to do in our programs, and helps with accreditation. Introductions were done around the room.

## **2. Industry Updates – Industry members**

### **a. Employment prospects –**

- Biggest concern is making sure that we have enough people in the pipeline to continue to do flooring installation. Worried because only has 4 primary installers and wants more in the pipeline to hopefully be able to serve their customers well.
- Ben Sandoval from Career Services shared that the NPC job board is a great way to generate interest in your company and it offers a lot of social media features and multimedia features. If interested in creating a company profile then get ahold of Ben.
- Craig from the Small Business Development Center, which is funded by the Small Business Administration, shared that they offer free counseling for any small business in Navajo and Apache county. Biggest question is how to get employees?
- Small Business Development Center was praised for what it does for our community. Construction is a great way to provide for a family. Our NPC Welding program has produced some great employees and excited about the CDL program. Need employees with a strong work ethic.

- It was asked if these students coming through the program are seeking employment with some of these material suppliers? Asked if there is an integration with that workforce? Jorge said we need to do more.

**b. Industry recommendations –**

-ZenniHomes. A type of modular home. Has a lot of metal manufacturing. Also thought Navajo Nation was interested in employing their people up there in Page and have already committed a lot of money to build these ZenniHomes out on the Navajo Reservation. Suggested maybe NPC could get involved in it somehow and help with low income housing.

- Contacted the Floor Covering Education Foundation. Currently have a pilot program doing tile in Whiteriver. Designed to basically go through all the major flooring types. They will not come away with a certification but it shows that it is tough work and you can make some good money doing it. A good profession.

- Getting calls from home builders frequently. These are not typical home builders – these want labor and programs to help them do modified container homes. It's like a container home steel building. Premium finishes inside and smart electronics. These are lower priced, because higher interest rates people cannot afford as much. Onsite developing.

- Another thing coming is panelized building. Concrete panels all cut out for electrical and plumbing. Built in a warehouse but then needs to be erected.

- The new steel made buildings need workers that can work in this alternative housing model. Different materials are being used and are not just the 2x4 and 2x6. Housing market is changing.

-Teaching students to show up on time and put in there 8 hours for their 8 hours of pay is probably the hardest thing to teach them but probably what they need the most. Tries to show students that they have learned skills that people would pay them for.

-NCCR has certifications for almost every craft. NAVIT is requiring certification for a lot of things. Finding out the interests and needs then NCCR and NAVIT could put together programs. College provides skills and helps some students get higher up jobs.

-NAVIT is basically a student pipeline for NPC. For NAVIT to get continued funding ADE, Arizona Department of Education, will have to have proof that we are offering industry credential testing and passage rates and also wants placement data.

**c. Industry Equipment Training –**

- Every manufacturer has a rep and usually has an install program. They will provide on- site training. Will bring their whole crew with their trainers and training in real life. Get everything that comes with the manufacturer. AZ Masonry Guild sends someone up to train NPC Construction students.

-Most industry people will train you on the job. The students need to learn basic like how to measure a tape measure. Has guest speakers come and share. Tries to have students think of goals for the future. Shares real life experiences.

- Frank shared that the flooring program from back east supplied us with tools and has provided some scholarships for students.
- CDL program should start in the fall.

#### **4. Holbrook PDC Site- Built- Project Fall 2025.**

-Explained the tiny houses. The students are in the program for 4 semesters, about 2 years to finish a project. Has 6 Tiny Homes at the NATC that will be used for students that will stay there while they do their training. The Tiny Houses have 2 bedrooms, a bathroom, toilet, and a sink. Jorge invited anyone to come and see them if they would like. Had 13 students this year in the program. Will advertise for the site-built house and hope to get some more interest.

-NCCR National Center for Construction Education Research – helps our students get multiple national certifications.

-Jeremy shared about the floor covering program we are piloting in Whiteriver. Had a group of students that really wanted more hands-on work. Those students can turn around and help the tribal housing authority on some projects. In the fall we are also looking at rolling out the full version of the program either here in Snowflake or in Show Low. We are waiting on our DGB, District Governing Board, to approve our budget for the next year which approves another full-time faculty position. Another thing is that with some grant funding we have funds to implement that onsite housing project and will use that grant money to fund the materials and construction from the first home and then will turn around and sell it to fund the second home, etc. The exact locations will depend on the grant funders and what they will do where and when. Looking at doing that in several different communities. Should find out about those this summer. It is a Lowes grant we have applied for and would probably start us off in St. Johns.

5. **Industry Tours** – Reach out to Jorge or Frank to come speak to the class in Holbrook in the fall, or tours to come to your place.

#### **6. Questions?**

#### **7. Set next Advisory committee meeting Fall 2024 Time and Date**

-September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. tentative.

-Jeremy asked is there anyone not here that should be here – if you think of somebody email Jorge or Frank. Feel free to spread the word.