

Welding Advisory Committee

5/9/24

Northland Pioneer College

Minutes

Minutes: *Jeanette Hancock*

Attendance: *Jeanette Hancock, Wes King, Randy Hoskins, Andrew Farr, Ben Sandoval, Jim Leslie, Frank Pinnell, Charles Rice, Jeremy Raisor, Matt Weber, Josh Rogers, Jackie DiCarlo, Dallas Miller, Jason Fata, Dirk Schneider, Christopher Susag, Doug Seaman, Jason Sangster (remote), Ralph Cordova (remote).*

NPC Snowflake Campus, SCC, LC101- Symposium

1:30-3:00 (food Provided)

NPC Provides, Supports, and Promotes Lifelong Learning

1) Welcome & Introductions:

Wes thanked everyone for coming and traveling. Also, for helping with completers ceremony and job fair.

Went around the room and did introductions.

Josh Rogers took a moment to hand out a QR code and explained that Leadership Council is trying to figure out what we need to do as a college and asked everyone to help by filling out the survey.

2) Industry Updates – Industry members

a. -Industry needs/ Best practice – tell us what needs you have and best practices with things changing in the industry.

- A continuous and steady supply of students.
- More focus on actual fabrication and not just welding.
- Ownership, responsibility and work skills.
- Welding supply and local companies are having a hard to finding people to sell welding supplies and industrial gases. Need more training on sales side of things, okay to have just a college knowledge to start into

sales. It was pointed out that Welding is doing career trees with sales as a career path and there is also an AWS certificate in welding sales. And that anyone interested can be taught most of the job on the job. It can also pay a good wage.

b. -Employment prospects – are you hiring right now?

- Employment prospects for the Local Pipe fitters union 496 is 200-300 openings a year but housing is expensive and makes it hard for some to relocate. It was brought up that the students need to know how to do math.
- CAID Industries currently needs 8-10 welders. Also, have a big increase in need for assembly millwrights, etc.
- APS will hire production trainees and are looking for troubleshooting skills. Having a welding background or having gone through the college program will help them get hired.
- Right now, in Iron workers the industry they are lacking welders. It's nice for the students to know the welding processes for SMAW, etc. Thinks NPC Is doing a good job. Iron work is different and it is dangerous work. Thanks for prepping the students and has had good success from these students. The welding part really does help them and is a skill. If they know how to set up a machine or get some stuff prepped up, fabricated, etc. Makes sure they know what they are getting into prior to getting into the job.

c. -Industry innovations equipment recommendations

- CAID is moving away from flux core with Pulse MIG technology. Trying to semi automate the processes.
- New equipment coming out and it is getting more sophisticated.

- The whole idea of technology is to help gets students ready, like pulse technology can be learned in a week. Then can learned how to use with robotics, etc.
- Need CAD stuff. Welding is welding. Give the students the foundations and when they get out of here they have a baseline to help them get into the actual trade.
- The Lincoln Pipe fab is awesome for schools and you get everything plus the pipe. Cobot is the entry level robotics system. You have it in your classroom and it is all down on an iPad. Everything is going to technology. Getting workers out there faster and train them faster. Everything done on the welding machine can be put into the cloud. If college interested they could work on prices for these items.
- Welding department needs the Lincoln LN feeder for heavy wire process 232072 flux core. If they can pull that trigger and not get super scared then that would be great. Those guys that know those terms it is nice because they know.
- Linde Gas and equipment Nationwide we have over 500 job openings but not sure how many are in AZ. Inside sales, plant personnel, drivers, etc.
- Randy said we should get some big wire and run it off our Lincoln machines. An engine drive would be nice because it would be in the field. New technology in that too.
- Air Arc it is a critical thing but if they cannot see the line and how critical it can be they can damage a lot of equipment, it would help for them to understand how that works.

Chris - NCCR rep. shared that every 3 years they do an audit and this year they are focusing on getting feedback from students. They want to have a QR code where you can get some anonymous feedback from students going through the program. A review of curriculum and instructors. Will probably put together an official paper and give to all the colleges. All the instructors need to start working on this with students for next year. It will be an ongoing database. Wes asked if

instructors will get feedback as well and Chris said he could send it to him. Chris said he can send a link to the results.

Matt – NAVIT superintendent – said he is grateful for partnership with NPC. Enrollment is strong and they are turning away over 20 students on welding. There is a strong presence for those seats and an ultimate goal is to actually get a facility here because Snowflake HS could fill it. Hate to turn students away and welding is a huge flagship program. He said he appreciates those here from the industries. Auditor General is wanting to know what we are doing to place our students. We can share with them that they are getting certifications and opportunities for placement.

3) SkillsUSA Update Gold medal winner!

- Randy – SkillsUSA is a CTE competition. All 3 of our welding shops compete in the SkillsUSA. There is an individual competition where they are on their own going through the welding process, fabrication which is a 3-man group that work as a team trying to problem solve, and sculpture which is more open to just creative artwork. The students that will do SkillsUSA are showing the initiative and willingness to work. It is competitive. It teaches them time management. The welding students did well at Regionals.

Jacob Meza won first in the individual HS at State and will go to Atlanta, GA at the end of June to compete at Nationals. Page McCartney got 3rd in the post-secondary.

4) New capital equipment

-Frank – It was not in the budget to order the capital at all 3 welding shops but did get a Department of AZ grant approved and has been trying to get a bunch of things purchased for the CDL, Fire training equipment, and welding equipment. Between the 3 shops Miller pipework, Lincoln flextechs, Lincoln combo welders, a new track welder.

5) Training Records Handout

- Handed out training records and what our students do going through the program.
- Wes asked everyone to look over the training records and let him know of suggestions or recommendations. Send Wes an email.

6) Industry Tours and Donations.

- Wes – Always appreciate donations. Donations to the shop and for Skills.
- Wes would like to get the students down to the shops/locations but it is not easy with transportation.
- Anytime anyone wants to come into the shops they are more than welcome. If someone wants to come in and talk about the sales industry or come in and do a demo that is great.

7) Questions/ discussion

- Skills set needed is coatings and finishing's. Sometimes the concepts are needed and the application can be trained. Ratio of math, understanding the blast profiles. A lot of theory there. Wes said if it is something they could do a quick training on then it could probably be added in. That is the biggest growing area.
- Clay asked how flexible are the summer classes? Could we create a course during the summer that could be a fab class where they create and build a trailer. There are some classes that could do that and building the trailer you could, but auctioning it off is more complicated. Wes said previously he had to donate to a scholarship fund. If the material came not from the college, built it, and then gave it the foundation and it will go to welding scholarships. The best part of the summer class could add something in drafting. The fabrication is not really good curriculum but more what the instructor wanted to do. Wes said Jim and Clay could write up some curriculum and has course outcomes to work off of. Not

very many students take it. Clay said it could be advertised a little better. Randy said we almost need a partnership with industry where we are taking our students and building something for industry. Salt River and TEP would let the kids do some smaller projects and bring in their journeyman to explain and work with them, i.e. handrails, support beams, and even bring the material. Wes said we can talk more about that internally.

8) Next advisory committee meeting Fall 2024, Time and Date TBD.

Wes thanked everyone for coming.