

## *Industrial Technology Trades Advisory Meeting Agenda*

*11/19/24*

*Northland Pioneer College*

### **NPC Show Low Campus, ITT Room, WMC Skills Center**

**Attendance:** Jeff LeFevre, Frank Pinnell, Sammy Harris, Jeanette Hancock, Ben Sandoval, Chris Pasterz, Aaron Ball, Christopher Susag, Wade Stoddard, Scott Newby, Matt Weber, Luke Grinder.

- **Welcome and Program Update** – Jeff LeFevre – Jeff welcomed everyone. This program is the transition from power plant focus curriculum to HVAC and alternative energy. It has less focus on the coal power plants. Will keep that curriculum on the books in case it is needed though. Program update was that we started with 8 students this semester and had 2 drop out. One has already completed his coursework this semester. Currently has 2 NAVIT students in day class and 3 adults in night class. It is not a big start but it is a start. Jeff said it was a good way for him to start and get his feet wet. He talked to his students today and said to tell him what they had done. He had a list of things the students have done/learned and shared that with the group. Right now, they are working on a fun project, an HVAC training board that has relays, thermostat, instead of outdoor unit and indoor unit just has a portable fan, condenser outside with another fan. He uses it to teach troubleshooting. Getting ready for next semester to introduce alternative energy with a little more focus on wind and solar but also others. Would like to visit some solar and HVAC businesses and talk to them.
  
- Asked everyone to introduce themselves and give industry updates and recommendations.
  
- **Industry Updates/Recommendations.**
  - Chris Pasterz shared that a solar company is coming and breaking ground close to Joseph City. They are currently looking for builders and laborers. Another one shortly coming in that region and is being done by a different group.

- Christopher Susag (APS/Cholla Powerplant) he thinks they might shut down this year. Christopher is also the NCCER sponsor representative for these programs at NPC/NAVIT. They are currently hiring in the Four Corners area for entry level positions at the Power Plant and a few positions down in the valley. Four Corners is projected to shut down in 2031. Cholla is still planning on being shut down, but has the water and is part of the grid so could still be used for something.
- Wade Stoddard, Retired from Salt River Project. He has also taught at NPC. Any project will need maintenance so can take what is learned from this class and go many different directions.
- Ben Sandoval – Career Services. Ben explained that he has a new job board platform. If anyone has someone at their company that posts jobs or if they have an open house that can be posted. Or if someone would like to present on what a job is like they can make a presentation on that.
- Aaron Ball is currently working in Tucson and Phoenix with SRP, APS, TEP. They try to get teachers out and let students see what is available. Has grant funding and would like to support this region and connect the middle school and high school students.
- Matt Weber, Superintendent of NAVIT. This is the first time since 2013 that we have over 400 students and a lot of that is new programs we are offering. Excited to partner with NPC and look forward to having more students flock to it. Excited where this program is headed.
- Mike Colwell – SPE/STJ advisor and over ITT. Has a lot of experience working with these programs and he is here to learn more about the program.
- Scott Newby – works at TEP in Springerville. Does mechanical maintenance training, etc. Latest good news for the plant is they are extending unit 1 until 2031. Updates- trying to hire entry level and experienced operators. Currently looking for mechanic welders, for the first time they are not requiring 5 years of experience. Anyone trained in heavy duty maintenance looking to hire. Having a hard time finding an old school journey level machinist.
- Sammy Harris, Automotive instructor and also co-chair of ITT with Jeff.

- Frank Pinnell has been with the college 22 years. First worked as a welding instructor and is now a Director. Just hired our new CDL driver yesterday. So, if someone needs CDL training direct them to Frank. Frank mentioned all that Chris Susag, Scott Newby, and Wade have done, among others. He publicly thanked them for all that they do to help support NPC and NAVIT.
- Chris Pasterz asked about equipment for the renewable projects and if they need funding. A lot of these renewable companies want a supply of workers and want to know how to invest in that training. Talked about putting money into scholarships or programs. Frank said he would love to see them do scholarships. Frank and Chris will talk about tangible training for equipment.
- Jeff would like to get a valve to pack that one can see-through so that someone can see what they did. Chris Susag says he has a see-through valve and would like to donate it.
- NPC has a ton of stuff out at the Coronado Station that needs to be picked up.

Discussion on next Advisory Board Meeting. It was decided that lunch time works well and that they will try to hold it on a Tuesday or Wednesday in possibly the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May.

Meeting was adjourned.