

***Welding Advisory Committee***  
***Minutes***  
***1/15/25***  
***Northland Pioneer College***

**NPC White Mountain Campus Skill Center**

*12:00-1:30 (food Provided for in person RSVP's)*

<https://npcedu.zoom.us/j/85039777824>

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

*Attendance: Jeanette Hancock, Frank Pinnell, Jeremy Raisor, Sammy Harris, Randy Hoskins, Jeff LeFevre, Wes King, Jim Leslie, Ben Sandoval (remote), Laura Singleton, Kyle Cosgray, Dylan Cosgray, Aaron Cosgray, Preston Steinhoff, Ralph Cordova, Scott Newby, Clay Rice, Christopher Susag, Eric Solomon (remote), Kanam Mamtani (remote).*

- 1) **Welcome & Introductions:** Wes King started introductions and welcomed everyone.  
Had everyone go around the room and introduce themselves.
- 2) **Industry Updates – Industry members** -Wes asked everyone to share for their specific needs in:
  - a. **-Industry needs/ Best practice**
  - b. **-Employment prospects**
  - c. **-Industry innovations welding process/ equipment recommendations**
  - Most industry members are looking for employees currently and will need them in the future. TEP is actively looking for journey level millwright mechanics and tube welders, both with 5 years-experience.
  - One big issue pointed out by several members is they need employees with work ethic that know how to show up and are willing to work and learn.
  - Another issue is most of the new employees just graduating has some unrealistic expectations. They need to understand reality and give themselves room to grow and learn (i.e. some students think they are going down to the valley and make \$300,000 a year on the pipeline which is not very realistic). They need to know this is hard work and

they will have to get dirty. Also, it is not just welding they need to be able to talk to customers, figure out problems, and work with co-workers.

- New industry innovations could be with laser things.
- It was suggested that students learn how to weld with both hands and at different positions, which is more in line with what they will do out in the field. It was also pointed out that students can take their time with a project but when they are an employee they have only a certain amount of time to complete. It was suggested that they hold competitions to help students try to do their best but quickly. It was pointed out that SkillsUSA does that.
- If a student is unable to weld really good but understands all the processes they can go into selling welding materials. There are job openings all over Arizona for this. They also need drivers that have passed the CDL program.
- Some things that students and curriculum could focus on are safety training for industry standards. It is good to show them how essential safety is. Also, simple basic rigging course, and show the items involved and how to inspect them. Things like that would look good on a resume. The students could use some help with their resumes.
- Employees interviewing get tested for reading a tape measure, converting fractions to decimals, clocking, finding a degree on a vessel. Students need to learn these skills. If the students start doing more small fabrication products in house would help more with the blue print, weld symbols, and how to digest them. One welding instructor shared that in his shop he has the students give an elevator speech on what they know, and once a week he has someone from the town come in and interview them.
- Industry down in valley, pulse and spray mig, carbon and stainless. They need to learn more submerged arc welding, technologies, automation, positioners, Cobot.
- Any industry partners are welcome to come to our facilities and demonstrate or come to you if you are local.

**Capital Equipment** – Last year we received flextech 350s and a new welding shop.

**Any recommendations?** Getting new plasma cutters and dynasty tig welders.

**Welding Thunder** – Wes and some of his PDC students competed. There were 22 teams that competed in fall. They built a welding fabrication table. Had to bring a mobile shop and set up in a parking lot. They had a day and a half to compete. Before building the project students do blueprints and welding symbols. It is similar to SkillsUSA but is put on by Welders without Borders. Wes' class actually got the gold rating or 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Wes announced that NPC was approved to host Welding Thunder next semester at the beginning of October. Hopes to get a lot of Northern schools involved. May ask for industry sponsorship and help, judging, etc. Wes will send more information out with more details. Will be open to the public and is all held outside. Eric from CAID offered to help with material and has contact with lots of vendors.

- **SkillsUSA Regionals** Thursday 3/6/25 (leadership) Friday 3/7/25 (Action Skills) Held at NPC locations. Some events will be in Show Low, Welding will be in Holbrook. It includes job interview, prepared speeches, welding sculptures. Will need 6 judges for the welding competition and usually gets them from industry. Donations or prizes for skills USA is welcome. Eric said he could reach out to get some prizes from Miller.

### **3) Training Records Handout/ Discussion**

-Wes handed out a couple papers for their training record example. Wanted everyone to take a look at it and see if they like it or if something they think we do not need to do. Topic of discussion for what the students should be focusing on. It was suggested that the facility offer more training for certifications for others not currently enrolled as students. Eric suggested doing a 2-fillet break test.

### **4) Industry Tours and Donations.**

- Wes pointed out that it is hard to bus our students to Tucson or valley to tour some of our industry partner locations. If they are local then it is doable. They really appreciate when industry partners come and visit the shop it really helps if industry makes a relationship with the students.
- Always willing to accept donations. If you have metal that you are going to get rid of, will take cut offs, or most things we can use. It was asked what specifically was needed,

schedule 80 pipe, schedule 40 pipe, 3/8 plate, 1/4" plate, angle, structural, square tubing.  
Eric will bring aluminum next time he comes.

**5) Questions/ discussion -**

- APS Cholla will shut down and will run out of coal at the end of next month. It will be totally decommissioned by November. Right now, running on minimal staff. It is possible that the Cholla Power Plant will be re-envisioned for something else but it will not be for a few years. They are not planning on taking it apart.
- Asked on enrollment. It is full.
- Laura Singleton – SBDC. They are offering free classes for those at the powerplants that are closing that maybe could help them start a small business. Next free class series is happening in St. Johns. It is open to the public.
- Industry asked if they taught aluminum welding? Yes, have aluminum welding in the curriculum. There is an advanced aluminum course and it is not offered every semester. Students are exposed but don't have the time to get into it as much as would be preferred. Also, do wire feed, spool gun, and push pulls.

**6) Next advisory committee meeting/ 2025 Welding Completer Ceremony /Job Fair.  
May 8<sup>th</sup> 2024. Mark your calendars and plan for a whole day event!**