

Welding Advisory Committee
10/9/25
Northland Pioneer College
NPC Painted Desert Campus Holbrook , AZ

Skill Center Automotive Classroom

4:00-5:30 (Dinner Provided in AWS District 55 meeting immediately after)

NPC Provides, Supports, and Promotes Lifelong Learning

Attendance: Wes King, Randy Hoskins, Sammy Harris Andrew Farr, Jonelle Sinclair, Ralph Cordova, Danny Chavez, Bruce Ferguson, Garrett Goodrich, Jason Sangster, Samuel Colton Sr., John Weber, Karen Zimmerman, Adrian Benally, Randy Fox, Buddy May

1) Welcome & Introductions

- Everyone introduced themselves, including their roles within the welding program or partner organizations. Wes King emphasized the importance of the Skills USA competitions and the role of the advisory committee in supporting the program.

2) Industry Updates – Industry members

a. Industry needs/ Best practice

- Industry representatives discussed the importance of reinforcing safety and foundational skills in students.
- Key points included ensuring proper grinder use, correct cutting and grinding angles, and overall attention to PPE and shop safety.
- Members emphasized that repetitive safety training and daily reminders are essential to developing safe habits.

b. Employment prospects

- The group reported steady demand for skilled welders and fabricators across northern Arizona.
- Employers expressed continued interest in hiring NPC graduates, citing strong hands-on abilities and certifications.

c. Industry innovations welding process/ equipment recommendations

- Members encouraged ongoing exposure to new equipment and materials.

- Vendors and partners were invited to offer live demonstrations and safety seminars on the latest tools, abrasives, and welding technologies.
- It was noted that seeing professionals' model correct techniques in person has a greater impact than videos alone.

3) Programs continuing focusing on Fabrication/Capital Equipment

- Instructors reported that the welding program continues to emphasize fabrication skills while upgrading capital equipment to match industry standards.
- Recent investments have enhanced students' access to modern welding tools and processes used in local and regional industry.

4) Welding Thunder 2025 at NPC Holbrook October 10th-11th Thank you for your support!

- The committee celebrated the success of Welding Thunder 2025, hosted at NPC Holbrook.
- Members thanked industry partners for their sponsorships, material donations, and on-site support.
- Their contributions were essential to the event's success and to promoting student engagement in competitive welding.

5) SkillsUSA Nationals Results. (Randy Hoskins)

The team recognized outstanding achievements at SkillsUSA Nationals:

- **4th Place** – Individual Welding
- **16th Place** – Welding Sculpture
- **24th Place** – Welding Fabrication

The committee congratulated the students and instructors for their dedication and performance at the national level.

Randy Hoskins shared his experiences and the success of his students in Skills USA competitions, including winning gold medals in welding fabrication and sculpture.

6) Program Certifications:

Students in the NPC Welding Program have the opportunity to earn multiple industry-recognized certifications, including:

- **OSHA 10**
- **NCCER Levels 1–3 (and 4 in progress)**
- **AWS SENSE Entry-Level Welder**
- **AWS D1.1 Structural Steel Certification**
- **NPC Certificate of Proficiency**
- **NPC Associate of Applied Science (AAS)**

These credentials strengthen students' employability and validate the program's alignment with national welding standards.

7) Industry Tours and Donations, Thank you for your support.

- The college expressed appreciation for continued industry partnerships that provide tours, donations, and mentorship opportunities.
- Faculty reiterated that transportation can sometimes be a barrier for site visits, but they are open to organizing instructor visits and student tours where feasible.

Members were reminded that donations are tax-deductible if processed through the NPC Foundation. The group discussed exploring more regular safety demos and live industry sessions to supplement classroom instruction.

8) Questions/ discussion

Open discussion covered:

- **Safety education:** Daily "Safety Minutes" and student-led presentations help reinforce real-world safety awareness.
- **Industry collaboration:** Partners expressed willingness to assist with live demonstrations, safety seminars, and equipment training.
- **Student engagement:** The use of short "60-second commercial" presentations helps students practice communication and job-readiness skills.

9) Next advisory committee meeting/ Welding Completer Ceremony

- The next meeting will coincide with the Welding Completer Ceremony and Job Fair on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at the Snowflake/Taylor Rodeo Grounds.

- During this event, graduates will receive certifications, present their 60-second commercials, and meet with employers at the job fair immediately following the ceremony.

10) Skill Center tour Welding and Automotive shops, Welding Thunder Set up.

The meeting concluded with a tour of the newly remodeled Skills Center.

- The remodeled area previously housed CIS, Mechatronics, and Construction, and now includes NPC's new Automotive Program, launched in Fall 2025.
- Attendees also toured the Welding Shop, observing students and the updated facilities used in training and preparation for Welding Thunder.

The tour provided members with an overview of recent facility improvements and program growth.

Meeting Adjourned.

Attendees thanked faculty and staff for hosting and reaffirmed their commitment to continued partnership with NPC's Welding Program.

Minutes by Jonelle Sinclair