

Welding Advisory Committee
Minutes
5/8/25
Northland Pioneer College

NPC Silver Creek Campus Snowflake, AZ

1:00-3:00 pm

NPC Provides, Supports, and Promotes Lifelong Learning

Attendance: Jeanette Hancock, Wes King, Randy Hoskins, Charles Rice, Sammy Harris, Jim Leslie, Anissia Perez, Jason Sangster, Matt Weber, Andrew Farr, Jason Fata, Dallas Miller, Ben Sandoval, Jeremy Raisor, Danielle Manygoats, Eric Salomon, Kunal Mamtani.

1) Welcome & Introductions done by Wes King.

- Everyone introduced themselves.

2) Industry Updates – Industry members

a. -Industry needs/ Best practice

- Manufacturing side/equipment side. Need for more skilled welders and their familiarity with what the different kinds of things the machine can do and troubleshooting. Basic know how. Make sure students know the different colors/brands.
- Simple labor work. Teach students how to use a measuring tape.
- One idea to help students is to use an 18” plate that a team of welders work on that they can layout magnets, mathematically lay it out and just use that piece of equipment over and over. Learn how to clock a vessel, etc.
- Good attitude.

b -Employment prospects

- Always looking for more employees. Several industry partners have slowed down a little but have projects coming up and will be hiring.
- Asked for the welding instructors to give their students sample questions to becoming an apprentice.
- Wes told all the industry partners that if any our students apply for a job with any of them to get in touch with him and the other instructors for an honest review and recommendation to let them know whether or not they would be a good fit for their organization.

c-Industry innovations welding process/ equipment recommendations

- New products. TIG machine being updated. ACDC 2-20 machine is coming out.
- Forefront of industry is the handheld laser. Something that should be brought up as more companies are starting to take advantage of it but a big focus on safety because it is dangerous. It does have a lot of safeguards (8 steps to follow before power turns on). Smallest bead ever seen.
- Pulse MIG aluminum. Spray and pulse MIG and sub arc.
- Innovation – mild steel, structural steel, still going up and doing all the welding processes.

3) Programs focusing on Fabrication

- Randy – The welding program has not really had a fab team, but explained a few things they have done. The students can weld but they do not understand plumb, level, and how to square it out. The only

way to teach and learn a lot of things is to build something. Will have the Welding Thunder event here in October and hope to have two teams. Would be nice to have another set of equipment, so that the students overlap. Students do help each other.

- One company brings a blueprint and the employees have to figure out how to lay it out, put it together, weld it, etc. So, in training they have to be able to do that and once they get confident they can move to the floor. Once a person knows how to layout then it can be used again.
- Randy explained that our students cannot build handrail just to throw it away. Randy explained that they are trying to figure out more fab things but are not there yet. Could have modules where you tear a building down and put back up. It was suggested that SkillsUSA might have some old mockups they could use.
- Blueprint training core – new guys in classroom and will go through the blueprint. Repetition is needed. AWS Sense has blueprints as part of their program but they are expensive. Wes wondered if there are some old blueprints that could be emailed to him and to show the students and give them some more experience with more advanced prints.
- Clay offered to bring some prints he got from his Grandpa.
- Randy explained in years past SkillsUSA used to allow a lot more students and that gave students the opportunity to fabricate under pressure, now its lessened by competing at a regional event.
- Wes said they are looking for a better SkillsUSA location to hold the competition and he thinks that is partly why they are cutting the numbers down so much.

- The welding program does in-house competitions and has been hosting the Regional competition.
- Its good to make them learn what they need to learn. Tries to do as many projects as possible for the community, etc.
- One industry member pointed out that students need to be able to layout and detail, welding is just a part of it. Teaching someone how to make a product look how it is supposed to is so much more important than just a weld, can you do math, soft skills (not on the phone all day). At the end of the day needs to be able to fabricate.

4) TOW Workshop for Highschool teachers June 9-12, focused on Welding Thunder.

- Workshop put on by Department of Education for High School teachers to improve their skills. This year will focus on fabrication and will be getting them ready for Welding Thunder.
- If you know any High School teachers that might need a little help then let them know about this.

5) Welding Thunder 2025 at NPC Holbrook October 10th-11th Will need industry support!

- All teams bring all their equipment. Then you get 8 hours on Friday and 4 hours on Saturday to build a project. You have to take a generic set of blueprints with symbols, etc.
- Last year 22 teams competed.
- Will be held here in Holbrook at PDC this year.
- Would love to have as many industry members there as possible to participate. Sam and Wes will be in touch. If interested shoot Wes an

email. Will be making rocket grills. Has a secret component that will require TIG welding in the shop ahead of time.

- They get judged on different categories.

6) SkillsUSA Regionals Huge success. NAVIT Welding SWEEPS State gold medals!!!

- Randy and his students did an incredible job at State SkillsUSA. They took Gold in Individual, Fab team, and Sculpture.

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

- Wes pointed out it is difficult to bring the students to the industries.
- Industry member had students from Window Rock come and he loved it and it was great. Would love to have them come.
- Wes said that we have graduates that go to industry that come back and give talks and demonstrations. A lot of these students have never been off the mountain.
- Always appreciate donations from CAID, Ironworkers, small stuff from graduates, pipefitters, and are always willing to accept more. Carbon steel aluminum, pipe any thickness, etc.
- Thanks to all those that have contributed to the program over the years.

8) Questions/ discussion

- Do any students get basic rigging training? NCCER core that has one unit on Rigging. Wes did say that Rigging is one thing graduates come back and say that is the one thing that the program could do better training on.
- One industry member certifies rigging. Rigging certs are as valuable as a welding cert.

- Randy said we had rigging as an open module in our core curriculum but then worried about us saying they were qualified and they were not. Has a lab aide that is certified and could maybe teach that.
- Could maybe get Steve Harris to go from shop to shop and teach it. Safety is biggest thing. The students will not be certified but will know a lot. Knowing how to inspect equipment, center of gravity, etc.
- Safety practices – Does OSHA Construction and get their 10-hour cert out of that. Industry members hire people with OSHA 10.
- Jason wanted to thank the team up here on the mountain because the individuals that come down from here are a few steps ahead. Said doing an excellent job and way ahead and of city schools. These kids up here want to do this. They have OSHA-10 and real certifications.

9) Next advisory committee meeting?

- Scheduled as a tentative time and will usually be a combination of in-person/online.
- It was suggested to hold it during October 10-11 with the Welding Thunder.
- Wes thinks most of the teams will be here on the 9th because they start early on the 10th. New tentative date is 10/9/25 and will probably be in Holbrook.