

Welding Advisory Committee Minutes

11/30/23

Northland Pioneer College

Show Low Campus

Skill Center

12:00-2:00

NPC Provides, Supports, and Promotes Lifelong Learning

Minutes: Jeanette Hancock

Host: Wes King

Attendance: Katie Matott, Randy Hoskins, Andrew Farr, Frank Pinnell, Sammy Harris, Cyli Geisler, Wesley King, Ben Sandoval, Jim Leslie (remote), Ralph Cordova (remote-Linde), Ryan Taylor (remote-CAID), Peter Janick (remote-CAID), Eric Solomonson (remote-CAID) Jeanette Hancock, Jason Sangster (Ironworkers 75), Clay Rice, Matt Weber (remote-NAVIT), Scott Newby (TEP).

1) Welcome & Introductions:

2) Industry Updates – Industry members

- a. -Industry needs/ Best practice
- b. -Employment prospects
- c. -Industry innovations/ equipment recommendations

Local 75th Ironworkers -Jason Sangster– he said there is a need for a lot of welders air arching. Need production welders. Would be willing to bring something to the facility to work on and show students. Every open call is for an iron welder. Any welder that can perform that task.

Demand has slowed down a little but expect to pick up in January. Now there are 1100 union iron workers and 700 of them are not from AZ. Tries to organize across the state to get people from our state.

Andrew Farr – Advisor. A lot of interest on different levels. A big demand.

Scott Newby– TEP. Right now they have 7 operators training and anticipate needing more by the time they get put on the floor. Looking for a manual machinist today. Looking at 2027-2032 before they start shutting down.

Katie Matott– Asked on communication side of it. Asked what type of student and how to send messages to communicate with the students. Jason said he could send apprenticeship info so the students know what they need to do and have. Andrew said we have several amazing students getting ready to graduate that would like to stay locally.

Ryan Taylor - CAID-Pulse MIG and spray MIG is what they are using now. Doing more spray. Doing Subarc welding. Quite a few different processes but more practical on the pulse MIG and spray MIG. Focal point on layout. Still hiring as well.

Matt Weber - NAVIT – trying to finalize registration for Spring and make sure that kids that are in trouble with absences are figured out. Appreciates the welding program and it is certainly the flagship program for NAVIT.

3) SkillsUSA report: NPC Hosting Regionals

Will be hosting the region 7 regional SkillsUSA here at this campus. Will have WLD, ATO, FRS, COS. And also, multiple leadership competitions. Will do welding sculpture. Leadership is on Feb. 8th and skills competition is on Feb. 9th. Will be in contact for judges and also donations for prizes, or even donations of steel to help run the competition.

4) New Skill Center Update

Sammy gave update. Just got the Certificate of Occupancy this week, we had been working under a temporary one. Contractors are still finishing up a few things.

Wes said students enjoy the facility and it is a nice place to work. Wes thanked the college for supporting them and the students.

5) Training Records Handout

Wes did not get them printed but will email them to everybody. Wants them to look at everything we do and wants them to give feedback to see what may need changed or adjusted. In the past we have added assignments from meetings like this, i.e. spray transfer. This helps get the students more prepared and well-rounded to enter the workforce.

6) Industry Tours and Donations (Big thank you)

We love to have industry tours. It is hard to have our students come to your industry because of travel and paperwork. Loves to have industry come to our locations. It is good for the students to know what is out there. Have done

welding demos and mock demonstrations. It is great if you could come to all 3 shops but anything is great.

Katie offered industry partners, and told Wes, that they could come in and film.

Jason Sangster offered to bring his whole team and could bring some things.

Randy suggested some things they could show the students.

Eric Solomonson said he does have some scrap donations. Wes said he could work with the Maintenance department to come and pick it up. Eric would like to come up in the spring time and do some demos and spend a couple of days. Eric said to just email him the semester schedule.

Wes said if we ever have an opportunity to go to your sites it would be great.

Wes reiterated that we appreciate all the donations we have been given.

7) New capital equipment

This last year we basically just replaced old welders in the last budget year.

This year most capital will be fitting the new welding shop. Capital is mostly funded by Perkins Grant. Asked industry partners if they know of specific equipment our students need to be trained on so that we can put on capital list for a future year.

Randy said he needs a heavy wire flux core feeder.

8) Questions/ discussion

Ben wanted to ask employers on recruiting strategy and how many career fairs they attend. Jason said he goes to a minimum of 8 a year. It is hard to find people interested in doing labor intensive work. Has done advertising to recruit.

Randy had an alumni student come back to share with the kids his experience. Jason said he is opening up his shop almost every day for testing and other needs. Pipefitters are still going strong. Discussed several plants that still need workers. Talk of a lot more chip plants.

Ryan Taylor asked how many judges do you normally have for the Skills contest – Wes said that for welding we usually have about 10. Wes said he would send out more info and requesting help soon.

9) Completer's ceremony/career fair/ next advisory committee meeting May 9th 2024. (Ask for Industry contact names to join Advisory committee)
Planning on doing this at the Taylor Rodeo Grounds and then the advisory meeting will be at the campus in Snowflake.

Frank said he appreciates everyone that shows up in person or on zoom. It helps our programs become more successful. Thank you for finding the time and taking the time.