

WELDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: October 25, 2021

TIME: 5:30-6:30

PLACE: LCC Physical Science Building RM 102

I. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Kim Rongey called to order the regular Fall 2021 meeting of the Welding Advisory Committee at 5:41 pm on 10/25/21.

II. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS**

Industry

Kim Rongey - Topper Industries

Ron Gross- Miller Welding

Mike Anthony - Boilermakers 502

Education

Wayne Miller - Woodland High School

Kyle Hurley - Wahkiakum High School

Bill Ofstun - Longview School District

Natasha Allen - LCC Welding Instructor

David Pittsley - LCC Welding Instructor

Nathan Enoch - LCC Adjunct Faculty

Jennie Bergman - LCC Workforce Education Manager

Tamra Gilchrist - LCC Dean of Instruction

III. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

a. **APPROVALS**

i. **K12 CTE CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATION - Natasha Allen**

Motion to approve the CTE Conditional Certification (CIP 480000- Industrial Trades, Welding) for Natasha Allen - Kim Rongey

2nd - Mike Anthony

Motion Approved

ii. **COURSES AND CIP CODES - NA**

These consents will come to the program committee when K12 needs these approvals. The school districts need to have approved conditional certifications for those individuals who are teaching CTE classes and do not have their teaching endorsements. After the advisory committees approve the conditional certifications, they are sent to OSPI for final certification approval.

IV. **INDUSTRY UPDATES**

Nathan - Waites: There have been a lot more code and testing talks than in the past. Quality is of utmost importance. We have certified welding inspectors (CWI) who are

walking around constantly. There is also a lot of talk about the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) Certification within the structural industry. Quality is important. There is also a lot more automotive welding with robotics than in the past. We are trying to utilize it as much as possible. Robotic arms manufactured of good quality and good craftsmanship. Waite is also having a hard time finding people who want to do the work. They don't show up.

Ron - Miller Welding: There has been a spike in the demand for automation. The LCC program should have an automation program. The increase appears to be a response to the labor issues. Miller has had an increase of 2 to 3 times more quotes for automation cells in 2021 vs. 2020. If you want to teach the students to be ready to go out and potentially be marketable, LCC needs to teach automation. It is the way to go.

In Oregon, on 9/1/2022, a requirement to lower the exposure limits of manganese to .2 will go into effect. This is a decrease from 5.0. This needs to be taken into consideration moving forward at LCC because it will be the way of the future. David shared that at LCC we cannot require respirators. Mechanical ventilation will be the route that LCC will need to take. With the current system in place, we cannot get close to that.

Mike - Boilermakers: COVID has impacted dispatching staff to jobs. If one crew member is positive, the whole crew goes home. This affects projects moving forward. We do a lot of scrambling to follow the rules and meet requirements and sometimes it isn't enough. The nature of the work puts people in proximity to one another.

Alumni: Brandon Tyson - Took welding tests with CH Murphy and passed the SMAW & FCAW-G tests. Keep sending students our way.

Kim - Topper Industries: They have a shortage of welding wire. Is anyone else experiencing this? Ron will help out with this, Miller has some. All their manufacturing is in the USA so it is not held up in the supply issues going on right now. However, there are a lot of vendor issues on the equipment side right now due to engine supply demands.

Topper has also changed their rate of pay to keep people from going to the bigger places.

Natasha - Right Line: We need good people. We are also leaning toward automation. When Right Line gets more room, it will happen. We are changing our hiring practices and are being flexible with schedules and hiring students. We want to get on the forefront of the LCC Co-op program.

Good things come out of concerns from this meeting. It does make a difference at LCC when the employers share during this meeting.

Tamra - What is the average industry entry wage?

\$20-22 entry

Boilermakers: \$40 plus benefits. 1st-year apprentice starts around \$30

Labor Market: \$24.56 for SW Washington

V. Education (LCC and K12) UPDATES

a. K12 Updates

Bill - Is there a high school welding competition this year?

LCC has a no-event policy right now. There was talk about getting an exemption for this event. However, we cannot maintain distance and cleaning requirements. There is no way we can run it right now. We have looked at other options. In the end, we had to make the call to not have it. We are open to talking about it: ie. joint venture, redefining the event. It means a lot to LCC and we will bring the high school competition back.

Bill - The Longview School District is excited about the combined LCC/KSD advanced program in welding that is being offered. We want to open up avenues for Longview kids to participate in LCC programs and then move into jobs in the workforce.

Kyle - Wahkiakum: 3 classes with 17 students

Wayne - Woodland: 1 middle class with 28 kids

b. Tenure-track: Tasha Allen

Hired Tasha as our new tenure-track instructor.

Tasha loves teaching and is excited to watch student progress. She has several young excited people in her class. Most of them are already working in the industry at the ground level and are excited to learn. Tasha is going to get her CWI will be becoming an examiner over the next couple of years.

c. The curriculum changed for the 2022/23 school year

Aluminum will be a bigger portion of the curriculum. All the curriculum changes have been submitted, waiting for approval. We will be taking out the oxyacetylene welding and adding another solid wire class and an aluminum class. The shop is all set and ready to go. Will start summer 2022 teaching solid wire steel and aluminum.

d. High School CTE 2022/23 school year

LCC/KSD started a new CTE High School Class: Welding and Machine Class. The class will be held on the LCC campus and will allow all area high school students to sign up for the class. Students will spend 2 weeks in welding class, and 2 weeks in the machine class, and go back and forth all year long. It is a project-based class that will teach basic elements and get students excited about the trades. The duration of the class will be a three-trimester class that qualifies the students for both their CTE credits at the high school and college credits in both

welding and machining programs. The class will start with the 2022/23 high school year and it has a requirement of enrolling a minimum of 10 students. Everything is ready to go and LCC staff are excited for the class. A course description for the high school course catalog and a recruitment flier will be made available to the high schools this spring. Ron, Miller Welding, supplied welding gear for the high school CTE class. The students will have some fantastic equipment to utilize.

e. Co-Op needs and industry support

LCC is adding Co-op Education into the welding degree: Students will be required during the last quarter of their program to work with an industry co-op partner. The on-the-job training will equal 2 credits = 66 hours of on-the-job training over 3 months. We will need industry support to make this happen for placements for the students to get on-the-job training and required credits.

We want to pull in industry partners to have a meeting and figure out how to make it work to place students and what the responsibilities will be. We are very excited to add it to the program. Jennie is the Co-operative Education Coordinator and will be working with students and industry partners on what the agreements will look like. This will start in the summer of 2022 but it will be at the end of the students' program. This means that we are two years away before the first student will go out to complete their co-op credits. We will have 2 to 4 students per quarter. This is what we graduate per quarter.

f. Facilities, Equipment, Technology

Virtual Welding Machines: Augmented Reality Welding System

Students are excited to use this tool. It feels and sounds like they are welding. It can be used in a classroom because it is not hot. We can utilize it at promotional events and let kids run them for a realistic opportunity that is safe. It will also be used with students in the LCC shop. LCC bought two of them from Miller. They are small and mobile, \$3000.00 per. They teach technique and after the weld, the student gets immediate feedback on five variables. We recommend them for the high school programs as well.

g. Student Success/Performance: Postpone until Spring Meeting.

VI. OLD BUSINESS: NA

VII. NEW BUSINESS: NA

VIII. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Kelso/Longview Chamber of Commerce: Job Fair in March - Contact Bill if you want to be involved. It is a one-day event that will give kids an opportunity to visit several different employers. There will be a follow-up to the fair which will be a job shadow event for interested kids. They will be matched with an employer and they will get on-the-job experience through job shadowing at the site. LCC is on the list.

IX. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE): TBD

X. Adjournment - 6:35 pm

XI. RESOURCES

- a. [ADVISORY BOARD HANDBOOK](#)
- b. [LCC: Professional-Technical Advisory Committees Meeting Minutes](#)
- c. [The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, Public Law 105-332](#)
- d. [College Advisory Committee Procedures](#)

PREPARED BY:

Jennie Bergman

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