

**FALL 2023**

**WELDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**November 15, 2023 – 5:00pm @ LCC Don Talley #201**

**PRESENT:** LJ Kruckenberg, Ryan Fabian, Doug Moore, Steve Mahitka, Tyler Salvig, Natasha Allen, Tamra Gilchrist

**RECORDER:** Kalisha Harris

**ZOOM:** Rob Cameron, Michael Anthony, Kyle Hurley, Seth Thompson

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

5:09pm by Tamra Gilchrist

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Tamra begins introductions around the room, gives overview of Advisory Committees and what we do.

Natasha shares why industry partners (Rightline) choose to be involved with the Committee: so that they have a voice in saying what matters and what is needed in the industry. Voices help make changes to LCC's programs to better help the industry.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**IV. INDUSTRY TRENDS**

Doug shares that they have had people walking into the shop directly to solicit for open positions rather than the office, asks if this is happening other places and what they do to mitigate it. Also interested in knowing if there is any blueprint reading being taught in LCC's Welding programs. Natasha shares that it is mandatory training in LCC's program.

Steve says that his experience is, most kids in HS don't want to read blueprints or learn the specifics. They just want to play in the shop.

Tamra mentions that Industry partners can provide opportunities to bring real world experiences into the classroom. A possibility may be, when

teaching blueprints and introducing the possibility of having a competition that would be judged by industry partners.

Natasha shares that students have 2 WABO certifications by the time they complete the Welding program. She is reaching out to industry partners who would be onboard to bring kids on internships and trial employment for hopeful long-term placement.

Seth says that they have brought in apprentices and everyone is working. Seth also shares news about Emerging tech – we are becoming a Hydrogen hub in Washington/PNW. Nuclear Fission tech is also coming forward. It's exciting to be working at the forefront of all of these new changes.

Seth says a starting apprentice makes approximately \$28.50 plus pto & benefits. Journeymen come in at about \$48 plus pto & benefits. Base skills for entry level – they have huge waiting lists to get into their programs which means it's a lot of high-level skilled people. People who are entry level and have less skills, they don't have as many options coming in. When people ask they refer them to their local tech college to gain the skills necessary for the industry and recommend they align themselves with a trade. Experience and education is necessary.

## **V. LABOR MARKET REVIEW**

### **a. Welders, Solders, Brazing**

Tamra shares the data shared for Labor Market (Supplements submitted w/ Agenda & Minutes). Numbers appear to be mostly accurate.

- i. [WA State \(In decline\)](#) .06% Growth
- ii. [SW WA \(In Demand\)](#)
- iii. Average Salary SW WA: \$56,475; .5% Growth
- iv. Average Salary Cowlitz County: \$54,685; 1.4% Growth
- v. Average Salary Wahkiakum County: \$49,518; 5.2 % Growth.

## **VI. EDUCATION (LCC & K12)**

### **a. High School Updates**

Comments throughout most trades that soft skills, dependability, work ethic are needed from the younger generation entering the

trades, as well as a clean UA and willingness to work – employers are willing to teach them anything they are willing to learn. Coming in with technical skills is important – but are they trainable. Attitude over aptitude. Good fundamentals of the full spectrum of the industry. Good old fashioned common sense would be nice.

- b. CTE High School Program Updates (Ind. Trades Foundations)  
Schools without walls is a skills center style program. It is year long course: Half year Machining and half year welding. M-F 7:15-8:50. Approx 15 students. Next year we will be adding Diesel. We also just got approved for an Education Academy to provide even more opportunities to HS Juniors & Seniors. They get dual College & HS credit.

*\*The Committee was seemingly supportive of this program and the addition of new instructors. The Welding Advisory Committee's approval is being requested in order to move forward with this programming.*

- **Course Approval**  
Industrial Trades Technology- (Welding)  
CIP Code: 480000
- **Instructor Approval**  
Natasha Allen  
Skilled & Technical Sciences  
V150100, V480500
- Byran Fitzgerald  
Skilled & Technical Sciences  
V150100, V480500
- Jessica Moore  
Skilled & technical Sciences  
V150100, V480500

c. Facilities and Equipment

- i. New building (still work in progress)  
Applied for funding approx 2 years ago for our new bldg. We are back on the list. House Capital Funding committee came down and were able to see our facilities, programs, equipment, etc. We are fairly certain we will be getting the funding this

time around. Hoping to break ground in 2025. This new building will house the Trades, IT program, etc.

- ii. Equipment: Piranha Tungsten Grinders  
Nataasha – has spoken to Georgia Pacific, Westrock and other mills about tig & tungsten prep, Many are no longer allowing hand prep tungsten. Primarily because when it fractures, it explodes. They are now using sharpeners. LCC is looking into possibly getting some, but wants to know what the industry as a whole are using. Is everyone leaning towards sharpeners or mostly “old school”. JT Marine, still does old school. Western Fab does a little of both. Nataasha is wanting to make sure students are well rounded and has necessary skills industry is looking for and expecting. Michael says they do hand sharpening in the skill center environment. Yet, a lot of journeymen are carrying their own sharpeners. He prefers that they at least know how to do it by hand, but the industry does seem to be moving towards sharpeners.

## VII. EXPLORATION OF CAREER LAUNCH PROGRAM

### a. Positioning Young Adults for Promising Careers:

Part of the Career Connect Washington initiative, [Career Launch](#) programs provide students with real-life work experience related to their classroom studies. Students graduate with skills to be competitive in the job market and with a valuable credential beyond a high school diploma. Career Connect Washington describes Career Launch as “the most intensive type of career connected learning program.” Its goal: to have 60 percent of young adults beginning in the class of 2030 participate in a career launch program.

Gov. Jay Inslee launched [Career Connect Washington](#) (CCW) in 2017 to help young people gain valuable, real-life work experience while they study. This ensures students receive not only high-quality classroom instruction, but hands-on work experience that helps them start a career with employers looking to hire. Career Connect Washington brings together higher education, business and industry leaders, government and state agencies, labor leaders, community leaders and nonprofits, and regional leaders to find ways to better link education and work. The Legislature provided funding for Career Connect Washington during the 2019 legislative session.

### b. One a college is approved, opens opportunities for additional funding:

- i. Development and Expansion of CL
- ii. Enrollment Growth
- iii. Capital Equipment

Application that we fill out and send to State Board to get endorsements from companies saying they’ll do a paid internship. Once programs are endorsed, we qualify for additional funding. The largest need is capital projects/equipment. We have a new, large bldg coming in the

next couple of years. Endorsements that we gain now, will be beneficial next year.

c. Sample Applications:

- i. [Centralia \(Welding\)](#)
- ii. [Clark \(Welding\)](#)

d. Discussion: Industry Support

i. Paid cooperative education?

Rightline has 9, Waite has 5 – they are employing students around their school schedule. FT & PT.

**Ryan** – hard to find young people willing to learn new things. Having versatile skills in various roles, would be extremely helpful. Not just welders...ability to read blueprints, machining, lathes, presses, etc.

**U** – (approx 80 students this year 9-12) Hard time getting kids to come to class and be prepared to learn. Some kids have outside struggles that find value in welding.

**Tyler** – Mostly MIG welding, not a lot of versatility.

**Steve** – KHS has the best welding shop in the state, after reviewing other schools. Kids have the opportunity to do just about everything except Oxi-Weld. They are doing Oxi-cuts though. KHS has some pretty focused kids with some pretty phenomenal skills. One kid works in a fab shop and out-welds 3 other welders in his shop. He has also won several local competitions (local Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, Hosting Regional on Jan 24<sup>th</sup> – individual weld). There are 125 students registered this trimester and 140 next trimester. Classes are staying full and run all day. There is still some struggle with some kids who don't seem to really want to be there, it's just a class. Others who are really good. One student has an Instagram for his welding, making money and even has people sending him stuff and endorsing him.

**Tamra** – LCC would possibly be interested in hosting for Skills USA. In years past, LCC did host but that ended due to COVID. Steve will look into what the deadline is.

**Rob** – they are able to judge, help w/ manpower, equipment, materials, etc for Skills USA. Cobots are becoming big in the

industry and have demonstrated at several area competitions. A Skills competition would be a great venue for a demo as a lot of students get excited when they see it in use. PNW is behind the ball, pretty much the rest of the world is onboard with the use of Cobots.

**FabTech** – discussion about possibility of Natasha and representatives from LCC attending. We will research when/where/cost for attendance. – Kalisha found the 2024 Expo is October 15-17 at Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL. Show floor admission is free if registered prior to 10/12/24. Afterwards, \$50 Registration fee.

**Michael** – A couple of LCC grads that they have hired are doing a fabulous job there. Sculpture ‘Building America’ done by a previous student & welding instructor and is being moved back to campus. Hopefully it will be displayed in the new Vocational bldg.

**Kyle** – Would like to get some of their students certified w/ JH Kelly. He teaches 2 periods of Shop, but has a full day of classes. They are a small school so not as much room for growth. Would like to get kids into a fab shop more often and get field trips so they can see more. They don’t mind learning how it works, but love to weld.

**FIELDTRIPS** – CR can accommodate just about anything as far as visits, even with short notice. CR CTE dept is pretty accommodating. LCC requires notice for permissions, clearance, transportation, etc. KHS is really rough to do fieldtrips. 2 weeks minimum to set things up. Overnight is more than 6 weeks. Tamra suggests looking into possible format similar to Bud Clary – industry visit, discussing our programs and how they relate, provide food, etc. Maritime rules are a little more restricting in order for fieldtrips to happen. Most likely would need to be 18+ yrs with a requirement for specialized PPA and safety training. Tamra shares that we may be able to get Perkins funding for worker retraining to help fund some of these opportunities.

## VIII. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS

Various Career Fairs coming up. We will email out information as we receive it.

Toutle Job Fair

Castle Rock Job Fair

Try a Trade in Spring

HS Weld competition

## IX. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE): TO BE DETERMINED AT A LATER DATE!

## X. RESOURCES

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

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# Welding

Washington, USA

**Overview** **8,158** Currently Employed **\$54,685** Average Salary  
**192** Job Postings (last month)

## Employment Trends

**3.2%**

**Past Growth**  
2020-2023

**1.4%**

**Projected Growth**  
2023-2027

## Top Occupations by Income

Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers **\$56,971**

Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders **\$52,400**



# Welding

Cowlitz County, WA

Overview **185** Currently Employed **\$49,518** Average Salary

**0** Job Postings (last month)

## Employment Trends

**11%**

Past Growth  
2020-2023

**5.2%**

Projected Growth  
2023-2027

## Top Occupations by Income

Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers **\$50,486**

Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders **\$48,550**

# Welding

## Wahkiakum County, WA

**Overview** **1** Currently Employed **\$48,736** Average Salary

**0** Job Postings (last Month)

### Employment Trends

**0%**

**Past Growth**  
2020-2023

**0%**

**Projected Growth**  
2023-2027

### Top Occupations by Income

Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers **\$53,918**

Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders **\$43,553**