

DIESEL/HEAVY EQUIPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MEETING DATE: March 8th, 2024

TIME: 3:00- 4:30 pm

PLACE: Lower Columbia College, DTV 201

I. CALL TO ORDER

Uriah called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm

INTRODUCTIONS:

Uriah Chipman – IUOE #701

Terry Craig – ERS West – Store Manager, Camas store

Tamra Gilchrist – LCC, Dean of Instruction

Michael Morris – LCC, DHET Instructor (start in Fall 2024)

Jim Dillinger – LCC, DHET Instructor

Barry Walther – LCC, DHET Instructor

Jennie Bergman – LCC, Workforce Education Manager

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES:

No quorum to vote. Email minutes for approval

Corrections to minutes include:

- Tour location Correction: C-Shop, Columbia Shop
- Add to the tour location, the Port of Portland Shop on Swan Island

II. INDUSTRY UPDATES

Uriah –

- More members are retiring. Membership is now over 4,000
- Large construction projects are starting. Contracts with the state included apprenticeship requirements on each project. Allows for employer to train their replacements through the apprenticeship program.
- Onboarding – 4 weeks for pre-apprentice participants.
- Over 300 people have applied for the apprenticeship program this year.
- Outreach
 - Visited over 30 schools last year. This year we will be going to 50 schools with the training simulator.
 - The simulator is programed for – Excavator, Tour Crane, Dozer Loader, to name a few.
 - The Focus group for outreach is high school freshmen through second year of college students.
 - Have an event at the Portland Convention Center coming up. 6000 kids from area schools will get the opportunity to operate the simulator.
 - The simulator can be brought locally to the Expo Center in Cowlitz County and to LCC Try a Trade event.

- Participated in the Excavator Route Rodeo competition. Operators compete against each other. The simulator can be used for this event.

Terry –

- Now implementing five days of training before anyone can go to work. Some of the new onboarding includes tours, online classes, inspections, loading trucks, walk-around inspections, forklifts, and site-specific requirements.
- Putting time into training for retention purposes. Data shows it works. When employees have a good onboarding experience they stay versus those who do not when first hired. This is the biggest change that has been done and it is working.
- Invest around \$10,000 per employee in training.
- They are partnering with SWWCA to try to go into the schools to introduce students to options that do not include higher education. Some people are not able to attend college nor do they want to.
- Job postings – Received 50 applicants in a week and Interviewed 5 of them. People are finally looking for work.
- Job openings include mechanics, technicians, yard workers, and wash rack jobs.

III. Education (LCC and K12) Updates:

a. Instructor Updates

- New DHET Instructor – Michael starts in the Fall of 2024
- Jim's Retirement – Last day March 31, 2024
 - Retirement Party is Tuesday, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm, DTV
- CDL Instructor
 - Mark Bremer will start providing Theory Training on April 8, 2024.
 - LCC is continuing to look for CDL instructors. Must have a Class A CDL for at least 2 years and a clear driving record.
 - Current LCC Driving Instructor, Steve, will be retiring at the end of the year.
 - LCC will be starting to offer the hazmat course and will need to hire an instructor for this course.

b. Facilities, Equipment, and Technology Recommendations

- Recommendations:
 - Is off-road equipment still a need?
Yes, earth-moving equipment is needed. Recommended to expose students to everything – front loader, track systems, undercarriage.
 - If you have equipment to donate let us know.
 - The program will be purchasing a forklift.
 - LCC received funding to purchase student tool carts and tools. Students will be able to check them out.

c. Student Success/Performance

- Enrollment is down for first-year students.
- Second-year students are more committed to the program and are looking for employment.
- Enforcing Safety: no cellphones, no music, need safety glasses as you walk in the door.
- Industry PPE Requirements: gloves, safety glasses, boots. Ear protection is not required but is provided. Some companies may require approved hard hats.

d. Cooperative Education - Internship

- The DHET program has one student who will be ready to enroll in the DHET 288 class this summer. Barry is looking for a placement for the student to complete their hours.
- This is an elective class. Students can take the internship course or the CDL Class A course.
- Career Launch – Paid work-based learning opportunities for students. This will be an opportunity for LCC to start contracts with industry partners that go beyond the cooperative education course and will provide a paid internship program for students.
 - Department staff will be talking more about how to implement this program within the current class load.
 - Terry stated that they are interested in working with LCC to implement this. They are looking for people who want to get into the industry. This will be a good opportunity for students.
 - The program would allow LCC to be eligible to apply for equipment funding.

e. CTE Diesel Mechanics Class

- DHET – In partnership with Kelso School District, LCC is offering a high school class that is open to all area high school students. Students complete the dual credit class on the LCC campus. 7:15 am – 9:30 pm, M-F. During the school year.
- Eighteen students enrolled in the class.
- We have learned that there are some behavior issues that come with high school students on a college campus. Teaching soft skills has become part of the daily curriculum.
- Next year we will be including field trips into the curriculum.

f. CDL Grant update

- We are in the second year of a three-year funding cycle. Funding includes:
 - Student Assistance (12 slots) – Pay for the LCC Tuition for the CDL Class A course.

- Equipment
 - New curriculum from JJ Keller
 - Trailer – 28' Dry Van
 - A/C RRC Machine
 - Tires
- Year three of the funding cycle includes Student Assistance (12 slots) – Pay for the LCC Tuition for the CDL Class A course.
 - No equipment was requested for the 3rd year

g. Recruitment of additional members

- Potential - JT Marine, 611 E A St., Rainier, OR
- Send information for new members to jbergman@lowercolumbia.edu
- We need a mix of employers and employees on the committee

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

Ethics Training - Required for all voting members:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesV_4c6S7RxFUGYa25AR0NMIpJ7LS7jenzc9z0YglzGT3-FA/viewform

Move this to the spring meeting

V. NEW BUSINESS:

VI. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS:

All are welcome to come to the Try a Trade event at LCC, on May 3, 2024 from 9:00 am - 1:30 pm in Lot A

VII. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE): 5/22/2024

RESOURCES:

1. [**ADVISORY COMMITTEE HANDBOOK**](#)
2. [**LCC: Professional-Technical Advisory Committees Meeting Minutes**](#)
3. [**The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, Public Law 105-332**](#)
4. [**College Advisory Committee Procedures**](#)
5. [**K12 CTE Advisory Committee Procedures**](#)

PREPARED BY: Jennie Bergman

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