

FALL 2024

WELDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, MAY 15, 2024 @ 5pm

- I. **Call to Order: 5:07 pm** Tamra Gilchrist, Dean of Instruction called the meeting to order as a new chair needs to be elected.
- II. **Introductions:** Seth Thompson (ZOOM), Steven Mahitka, Joshua Jaspers, Mike Sherman, Don Shepherd, Natasha Allen, Tamra Gilchrist
Record Keeper: Kalisha Harris
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes were approved electronically after the last meeting.
- IV. **Review Chair/Elect Vice-Chair:** Kim Rongey has been serving as the chair but has not been able to attend the last few meetings. Tamra explained that all Professional Technical programs are required to have an Advisory Committee comprised of industry professionals that meet twice per year. Five industry professionals are required to meet quorum for voting. Natasha recommended Mike Sherman but Mike would prefer to attend additional meetings before committing to the chair role but may consider in the future. Seth Thompon agreed to volunteer as vice chair. Don Shepherd volunteered to serve as the Chair after seeing if there was other interest for the committee. Don was voted in as Chair. Both Chair and Vice Chair positions to be formally approved by full committee electronically.
- V. **Industry Updates: Emerging Trends & Technology:**
Mike Sherman – has had opportunities to talk with Tasha and is generally concerned about the direction of industry. He is getting ready to retire and wants to know what that looks like for the future of the profession. There is a resurgence in the trade and is interested to see how many stick with it. There is a huge demand for pipe welders (carbon, stainless, tig, etc).
Don Shepherd - has set students and Natasha up to see Pipeworks in action. That is where the industry is going and would like to see that at LCC. By 2027, there will be about 97,000 welders in the industry, they need to be more heavy-industrial trained. There are plenty of decorative steel welders. Getting a Pipeworks system at LCC would better prepare students to go to work in industry (Tig & Mig all in the same machine).

Natasha would like to look into grants for bigger, more industry-specific machinery.

Don Shepherd – Laser welding has been out for a few years now. Members of his team went on a local tour recently and was concerned about the safety and use of the machines. It is not yet fully regulated for safety in the US market. Miller is developing the first US built laser welding machine and laser safety officers are being hired. Discussion included: processes can run with nitrogen and weld 4-5x faster than tig, problem is that it has to be enclosed space. Eye damaging (retinal explosion) skin damaging at 700 feet. Glasses are \$70/ea. and have to be tossed if damaged. Miller is working to put high safety features. This is a \$47K machine that only welds 7". Robots & CoBots are currently viewed as "taboo" but the future in this industry is in these new forms of technology. Nonetheless, they are not popular with sales staff.

Seth – Pipeworks machine in is present in several locations, he is an increasing fan of Lincoln PipeFab. Seth has sent over the UA Weld Test, will send it again to Tasha so that there is knowledge of what students need to know. He is on 6-7 Welding Advisory boards for other colleges. To have a program that has pipe and gets you to somewhat proficient pipe welders, the credentials are more difficult to build into a degree program. In the past, he worked with the previous instructor at LCC to attempt to imitate what GHCC (Grays Harbor Comm. College) does. It is tricky but he would be willing to help build this. Getting people to Weld on pipe will make them better welders. To address incoming generation questions, they have more applicants in apprenticeship programs than they can place. Top applicants waiting and doing well get top priority. Currently all apprentices are working, industry is doing good but more jobs are needed. The welding industry is all about relationships, many of these people on this committee, CTE directors, colleges, etc. are pushing trades more than they have in years. HS, apprenticeships and continuation to college are getting increased attention.

Natasha - Cody and Steve came to talk to class and encouraged students to apply to union now! It is not recommended that students wait until they have graduated as it could take a few years to get hired on. Nine students applied and three got call backs for interviews. Adding pipe & tubing to verbiage could allow for incorporation into the program.

Seth – GHCC uses bevelers to cut out sections, weld and continue. This is in line with what they would be doing on a job.

Natasha – we can reach our outcomes by adding pipe to outcomes in order to teach it, we just can't have a pipe only program.

Seth – over 200 people alone who have applied to join on as apprentice. On average, it takes about two years of waiting to get into the union. Very low attrition rate due to the wait. Many apply, interview, reapply, reinterview. Many that have waited so long are more likely to stay. They are more committed and

won't leave on a whim because they are serious and understand what it took to get in. He recommends students work on getting TWIC card and certs that are needed for job sites. Not having them moves you down the waiting list. Also, have multiple forms of ID. It is recommended that students do all they can to remove barriers.

Tamra – Discussed that we looked at advanced certs as the state board does now have a model but doesn't always fit the need for advanced technical skills. Currently, the shop and schedule is quite full so we continue to challenge ourselves to find ways to keep people learning including can we place more students in industry sites.

Seth - Certs are not degrees but do show proficiencies and are helpful to advance. Not necessary to do a full pipefitter program but looking at a cert might be good direction. They start everyone on stick then move to tig. No mig or wirefeed until much later on. There are over 100 UA welds they use.

Seth – April 22, 2019, the minutes online reflect the Pipefitter program from previous discussions, suggests everyone go review them which the committee agreed was a great idea to refresh.

VI. Input and recommendations from industry:

- a. **Equipment**
 - i. Continue to monitor industry trends but not specific recommendations at this time. This may come in the future with the new building.
- b. **Curriculum**
 - i. Pipe and Stainless

VII. Cooperative Education/Career Launch

- a. Brief update that LCC is still considering a career launch application which would include letters of support from industry for paid positions where available.

VIII. Education (LCC and K12): Updates

- a. **K12 high school program**

Steve - HS Kids are all over the place. Some who don't know how to even hold a welder, and others who have passed 5 & 6G. He is trying to figure out how the HS's fit into this conversation and what they can do.

Seth says they are seeing varying levels of skills also. Some who has never really welded, some who haven't done it in a while and others who come in with WABO certs. UA is usually hiring the top 5% of the industry, not just general welders. For other industries, they may not need to be the elite, some are getting people who don't know at all what they're doing. Get them started on a stick welder. Once they show proficiency, then move them on.

Don – Currently has 90K lbs of Hobart filler in the shop, \$1.50/lb. Good for educational. Hobart will drop ship 250lbs or more directly to the school.

Seth - nothing substitutes hood time.

Natasha – there are local shops that need people who have varied skill levels. Don – the industry needs people who love technology as well. If they are interested in the machinery and talking about welding/procedures but maybe they're not great welders or wanting to weld. There is a generation getting ready to retire and Don's generation is stepping up, but there's no one behind them. The younger generation shows up, does their job and goes home but is less interested in using outside time to further their education and knowledge of the industry, products and equipment. Those "geeking out" on the tech or industry side of it, are needed.

Seth/Don – some find Welding relaxing and can totally zone out on it. That's not what appeals to them anymore. There is a love for the industry and being involved and watching it progress and grow, but don't want to be behind a welder or striking arcs.

Mike – wants to do whatever he can to help get people engaged in pipe welding.

Tamra – manufacturing programs are suffering, wanting to develop a focus group to discuss movement into robotics, machining, industries, what can the community can use.

Don – there are kids out there, we just have to figure out how to find them and grab their attention.

Tamra – New LCC President, Matt Seimears began as a welder and is doing a meet and greet type event where people can come connect with him. (See below for additional info). Encourages Committee members to consider attending, will get additional information. There's also a program that she's looking at "degree in 3" starting at HS level. Pathways into good paying jobs, leaving HS with a good start into the industry.

b. Industrial Trades Foundations Kelso HS/LCC Partnership CTE program

Steve – KHS, all CTE classes are cutting from 5 to 4 next year.

Tamra says the programs are really increasing and taking off everywhere. This is the first we're hearing of this.

Steve – it has nothing to do with lack of interest, but higher ups in District are putting a cap on it perhaps based on budget. KHS has "skills center w/out walls" style program. Our Industrial trades programs are an extension of this.

Tamra – it is hard to find adjuncts to teach in our programs otherwise we could offer all kinds of additional classes and programs. It is a challenge when the work is part time. Cooperative education is required as a part of the two year degree. LCC is looking for industry partners who are willing to hire our students. Several places signed on. Some partners are not able to pay, but Natasha does encourage them to pay the students for their work experience where ever possible. Students do interview, take tests and start working a minimum of 66 hrs in industry around their college schedule.

Tamra – Career Launch, apprenticeship model (European "apprenticeship" model) – Endorsements from employers stating they will pay a student

apprentice. Once endorsed, the college can apply for additional funding for capital equipment which may be helpful as we develop the new Vocational building.

Tasha - 2/3 of our students are working in the industry, rather directly or adjacent. Most industry partners are willing to work with schedules.

IX. Other:

- a. **Metal donations:** Rightline has metal to donate, going to pick up on Friday. Always open to getting more from anyone wanting to donate.
- b. **HS Welding Competition:** Went really well, great turn out, lots of people. Seth – recently held their state comp, Local 26 finished 2nd again.
- c. **General enrollment growth:** Running Start 62 students this quarter. Normal summer is 12, looking at opening to 29 for 2 sections this year. We are not experiencing a lull this year. Program is very full. Jennie Bergman sent May 31st 2-3pm Matt Seimears is doing an open session to meet with community.
- d. **Open Doors:** for those struggling w/ HS. They are able to come take an alternative program; they are able to get HS Diploma and Associates degree at the same time.
- e. **Guest speakers/tours/events:** Tasha – always trying to get industry in here to talk and share experiences in the trade. Students need to learn that there are a lot of different places to go, lots of different avenues in the industry. Avg age of apprentice is 27-31. Don offers to do tours of the shop anytime we want to put something together.

OLD BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS

XII. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE)

XIII. RESOURCES

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

ADJOURN 6:37pm

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