



## WELDING ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MONDAY MAY 3rd VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

### I. Meeting called to order at 5:17 p.m.

### II. ATTENDEES

Mike Anthony, Boilermakers 502  
Rob Cameron, Central Welding Supply  
Kim Rongey, Topper Industries  
Seth Thompson, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 26  
Natasha Allen, Rightline Equipment Inc.  
Cory Torppa, Kalama School District  
Lance Ganieany, Kelso High School  
David Pittsley, LCC  
Tamra Gilchrist, LCC  
Lynell Amundson, LCC

### III. AGENDA ITEMS (*Minutes adjusted to reflect change in meeting order*)

#### i. Approval of course CIP Code: Manufacturing Foundations 470000, a new Career and Technical Education class for high school students

Tamra Gilchrist shared with the group that LCC is partnering with Kelso School District to offer two Career and Technical Education programs: Industrial Trades Foundations Welding Skills and Industrial Trades Foundations Machining Skills with CIP Code 470000 – Manufacturing Trades. She shared the draft framework for the program and explained that the CIP Code specifically requires approval by the advisory board representing the specific area of education. David Pittsley shared with members that the class will be a joint program with welding and machine shop. Junior high school students accepted to the program will attend classes at LCC – two weeks in welding, two weeks in machining, then back to welding and so on. Students will start with GMAW welding, course work will be completely project-based building off blueprints and using welding and machining skills to design and build a completed project. The program will follow Kelso's trimester calendar system. Tamra and David told the group this pilot project is starting with Kelso with a plan to open to all districts. This project builds a path into further education at the college if students choose to stay on the welding/machining/construction pathway. The project includes plans to incorporate local industry partners into the class, exposing high school students to opportunities at a high level into industry.

Natasha Allen asked if participation is restricted to Washington schools and employers. Tamra assured her there are no restrictions.



Seth Thompson asked about the existing Multi-craft Trades Certificate and where it fits in this scenario. Tamra told the group the Multi-craft Trades Certificate remains an option at LCC and is a building block to the Advanced Manufacturing Degree.

Tamra and David told the group that they are starting with the general concept and will fine tune along with input from machining faculty Nathan Shepherd. Tamra added that the goal is to add to skills students are already getting in CTE education at their high school.

Natasha, Welding Advisory chair, called for approval of CIP Code and framework. Kim Rongey moved to approve; Lance Ganieany seconded.

**ii. CTE Conditional Certification: David Pittsley**

Tamra shared with the group that teachers in Career and Technical Education programs require Conditional Certification approval to teach in high school CTE programs. For this proposed Industrial Trades project David needs to be approved by the advisory board. Natasha called for a motion to approve. Kim Rongey so moved; Mike Anthony seconded. David Pittsley was approved for CTE Conditional Certification.

**a) Updates from LCC**

- Enrollment, schedule and progress, and plans for instructional delivery summer and fall quarters.

David shared with the group that enrollment is down by a few. Currently have 35 to 37 students enrolled, typically have 45 to 50. LCC added multiple sections for summer and plan to continue the same for fall though one or two sections may be dropped with enrollment down and the prospect that LCC may be able to have more than 10 students in the lab during class with COVID social distancing change to three feet rather than six. Tamra added that the lab can accommodate up to 15 and still maintain six-foot social distancing.

- Increasing aluminum GMAW & GTAW

David told the group LCC is considering dropping oxy acetylene welding from curriculum to allow time for more prevalent skills such as aluminum welding, asked for member feedback. Currently LCC is squeezing multiple welding skills into a single course and aluminum welding gets little time. Natasha said a lot of jobs require aluminum welding skills and she would like to see oxy go. Having it taught for an entire quarter is too much. Lance agreed and said he doesn't teach it at Kelso High School any longer. Mike Anthony also agreed and said time would be better spent on other skills industry is looking for. Rob Cameron told the group he only knows of two companies that use oxy/acetylene welding, 80% of metals sold are wire but he does recommend oxy fuel cutting tool remains. He also advised switching the order of classes to teach wire before stick. Seth said



they removed the procedure but do use oxy cutting. Kim told the group her industry is in desperate need of welders with aluminum welding skills. The group unanimously approved of dropping oxy/acetylene welding.

- Moving WABO wire to its own quarter  
David shared with the group that several welding skills are taught in a single course and WABO tends to take precedent in order to focus on students passing the WABO test. LCC is exploring moving WABO into its own class. The board agreed that would make sense for student success.
- Stainless steel health hazards & mitigation procedures in industry  
David told the group that LCC currently teaches about two weeks of stainless steel welding and asked the group what kind of mitigation plans they used for this procedure. He also asked about the relevance of teaching something for such a short period of time when the time could be used on other skill sets. Kim told the group that Topper Industries has two people certified in stainless welding. They provide their own respirators. Her industry doesn't do a lot of stainless welding, but they have a complete procedural document for the process – industrial inspections, test fits, certification updates, etc. Mike said Local 26 Boilermakers do a fair amount of stainless welding and the norm is to have respirators, follow protocols for testing, HEPA filtration, etc. It is taken very seriously and there are no shortcuts. Other board members agreed that its best to eliminate stainless welding from LCC's program and focus on other skills. Industries that do require stainless typically train themselves.
- New Adjunct Instructor  
David told the group that Natasha has been teaching night welding classes at LCC as an adjunct after Rodney Miller's sudden death December 2020. He also shared that Randy Byrum is retiring at the end of this academic year June 30, 2021. LCC is in the process of seeking both adjunct and full-time tenure track instructors.

## **b) K-12 partner updates**

- Career and Technical Education teachers will share information regarding instruction delivery during the current pandemic.  
Cory Torppa shared with the group that Kalama High School obtained a state grant that allowed them to add gas metal art stations and increase the number of oxy fuel cutting stations. The school has been able to open floor space for fabrication, stick weld, four mini machining mills, four mini lathes. He added that one benefit of the COVID situation is the school has had more time to set up the lab with plans for more students back in the fall. He currently has students three days a week. He thanked Mike Anthony for donating welding hoods for students. It has made a big difference.



Lance asked about elimination of oxy from LCC's program and what that will do to dual credits CTE students currently earn. Both David and Tamra assured him

that the change is still in the exploratory phase and no sudden changes will be made without taking all partners into consideration. David said LCC will also be looking for input from the person hired as the second full-time welding faculty.

### **c) Industry partner updates**

Business and industry partners will share information regarding their status and how they are working during the current environment.

Kim Rongey shared that Topper Industries is incredibly busy right now. They are completing a 166-foot bridge for the Port of Anchorage, Alaska, that will be shipped in one piece. They also are building several catwalks for the State of Louisiana. She said they are booked with projects through the end of the year and added they are grateful to be working considering the supply chain lead time required in these challenging times and the constantly fluctuating prices. She purchases materials by project and orders weeks in advance to stay ahead of the game. It used to be a six-to-eight-week lead time, she added, now it is often as many as 32 weeks.

Rob Cameron agreed that prices have gone up multiple times this year and all materials are carrying a surcharge with an expectation of waiting eight to 10 weeks for welding equipment to arrive.

Mike Anthony gave kudos to LCC's welding program and shared that two LCC students have been hired into Boilermakers Union Local 502. He said both are doing very well.

They are respectful, make good use of time, are very professional and make extra efforts to clean up after themselves. David told the group he emphasizes "leave the place cleaner than when you got there" to students.

### **i. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. David shared that Natasha has applied for the welding faculty position at LCC and asked about her status as advisory board chair. Because she has served more than three years and because of her new role temporary adjunct and possibly permanent faculty she will step down from her role as advisory chair. Natasha nominated Kim Rongey to step in as chair. Lance seconded the nomination, Kim accepted and the board unanimously supported moving Kim into the leadership role.
- b. Tamra shared with the group that LCC had received approval from the current legislative session to begin exploring the design of a new vocational building. The process will take several years but the college is very pleased to have this first funding approved.

### **j. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.**

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