



LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE 1600 Maple Street, Longview, WA 98632

## WELDING ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

MONDAY OCT. 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 5:30 P.M. LCC STUDENT CENTER CONFERENCE ROOMS

### **I. Meeting called to order at 5:52 p.m.**

### **II. ATTENDEES**

Natasha Allen, Rightline Equipment Inc.  
Mike Anthony, Boilermakers 502  
Neal Crawford, retired  
Lance Ganieany, Kelso High School  
Kim Rongey, Topper Industries  
Seth Thompson, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Local 26  
Kurt Willett, Vigor  
Cory Torppa, Kalama High School  
Mark Speranza, LCC student  
David Pittsley, LCC  
Rodney Miller, LCC

### **III. AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **a) Enrollment update**

LCC faculty David Pittsley and Rodney Miller shared information regarding current enrollments – 31 students a.m. class, 18 afternoon class, 14 evening class.

Natasha Allen asked if students continue to be eligible for credit for on-the-job training; David told the board some students are eligible for this model on a case-by-case basis.

#### **b) Labor Market data**

Labor market data from Labor Insight for Cowlitz, Clark, Lewis, and Wahkiakum counties was shared with the board. Data showed 111 positions posted in the past 12 months; projected growth of +8.4% over the next 10 years; median salary \$36,892 annually; very high demand for these counties. Statewide and national data from O\*NET also shared – welding related positions in Washington earn \$20,000 to \$30,000 more annually than national positions; projected to grow faster than average, 10% or more 2016-2026 (Bureau of Labor Statistics); 29% require post-secondary certificate.

#### **c) Curriculum update**



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### **Online modules – Miller Open Book, AWS**

David shared information about online sources that will replace the textbook currently being used. Coursework gives students opportunity to get a third of the way toward obtaining their CWI Certification; online modules allow LCC to raise the bar on supplemental skills without taking time out of the weld shop; videos engage students; tests are credentialed. Mark Speranza, second year LCC student, shared with the group that he took the AWS safety module and information is provided in a much more engaging way with audio and visual; it's easy to use and allows students to get as much time in weld lab as possible; especially effective because incoming students are all about online, YouTube. He's looking forward to getting as many certifications as possible.

Board member Neal Crawford questioned how students get help if they have questions about online material. David shared that each school is assigned an AWS representative. If David can answer the question, students can reach out directly to AWS.

Kurt Willet asked is this coursework is required. David confirmed and told members he is taking the most relevant modules and incorporating into coursework: math, welding symbols, non-destructive and destructive testing, etc.

LCC faculty also planning to implement Miller Open Book Spring 2020. These modules are more condensed and enhance what students are getting with AWS.

### **Welding Procedure Specification (WPS) added to daily weld charts**

LCC faculty have added WPS to all charts. Miller Open Book allows faculty to put whatever information necessary regarding material, type of welding, recommendations and pull WPS directly from Miller. Students need to know what WPS is, use critical thinking skills, every weld has a corresponding WPS. Mike Anthony and Natasha Allen expressed complete support for this direction, better prepares students for what they will experience in the workplace.

### **d) Industry expectations discussion**

Board discussion – basic construction math, know how to read a tape measure, knowledge of the trade they going into, show up on time and be dependable. Some employers require specific certifications or passing a test in order to be hired. WABO card get students two thirds of the way toward what Boilermakers Union expects. Members recommend focusing on stick and wire welding, controlling arc length, controlling puddle, how to set machine, oxy acetylene. Continued discussion about need for aluminum and pipe welders. Seth Thompson asked about progress; David shared that coursework has been developed but there are several issues that prevent implementation; discussion about need to create specialty pathways for welding students.



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Kurt Willet asked about open enrollment, can students just come in and learn to aluminum weld? David and Rodney shared information about some industry partners that send employees in for specific welding skills, as well as individual that was pursuing skills for his own interest, not looking to earn a certificate or degree.

Kurt offered to provide training equipment for aluminum welding skills if that is an option; shared Vigor's need for 250 welders with aluminum welding skills.

Seth also talked about need for pipe welders, mentioned apprenticeship opportunities that are currently open.

Cory Torppa teaches welding at Kalama High School; students are jazzed about the science; aligning Kalama curriculum to LCC's; writing a grant to purchase trainers but finding different shops recommending different trainers. What does industry recommend? Board members encouraged Cory to reach out to other high schools.

**e) New web pages**

Members were given an update on marketing materials – web page, brochures - and shown the new manufacturing video. Coasters were also shared with members.

Discussion about reaching out to middle schools and high schools to get interest in the trades. Also discussion about different methods for reaching more of the 20-somethings who tend to be the target market for most of the labor unions.

**f) Employer survey**

Employers completed the LCC survey.

**IV. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**a. 2020 Welding Competition**

High Schools from several districts send students to participate in the competition. Date has not been set for 2020, typically takes place the third Thursday in February. More information should be coming out soon. Board members offered to assist with prize donations for participants.

**b. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE):** Kim Rongey expressed interest in hosting spring meeting at Topper Industries. She will confirm at a later date.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. following motion by Kim Rongey, seconded by Seth Thompson.



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