

Truck Driver Training Department

Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Time: 5:00pm-6:30pm

External Participants: 2

Craig Hayes - XPO

Marie Dimuidlie - Maplehurst Farms

Internal Participants: 6

Kayte Hamel – VP of College Relations/Executive Director of KC Foundation

LaCretia Konan – AVP of College Relations

Joe Wisnow – CDL, Lead Training Specialist

Darryl Nix – CDL Instructor

Jeffrey Taylor – CDL Instructor

Laura Gregory – Career and CE Specialist

I. Program Updates

- Overall enrollment
 - 32 students have enrolled since March in the 060-training program. The program has three full-time instructors and one part-time instructor teaching the classes. Instructors have been focusing on in town driving instead highway
 - Marketing- The program has been given the opportunity to promote the program for 13 weeks on the radio WLBK
- Program Goals
 - Continue looking at different marketing ideas
 - Maintain the pass rate at 100% within the three Road test attempts

III. Employment Needs

- XPO is trying to hire student drivers. Currently hiring a lot of students from Rockford because of the recruiter company working with XPO. Craig is going to let us know when positions become available. Freight volume did cause a hiring freezing but is now back to normal
- Employers both expressed they would like the students to have their Tanker and Hazardous material endorsement. We informed the employers that students can take the Hazardous material endorsement course for \$195 online via Ed2go

IV. Industry Update and Labor Market Discussion

- XPO and Maplehurst Farms agree that the outlook for hiring should increase
- The average rate of pay is between \$27-33 and raises each year. Maplehurst added drivers during harvest season
- Both companies are using automatics which has helped operations
- Dash cams in truck that only activate on G-force for XPO and Maplehurst runs dash cams all the time. Kish can use the Maplehurst video clips for educational lessons
- Employers suggested getting Dash cams for the Kish trucks. Very beneficial in an accident situation
- Craig would like to attend any job fairs put on by Kish and offered to be a guest speaker for the 060 classes

- Federal and State
 - Self-driving trucks in the future
 - Battery operated trucks are working for short trips but not long haul

- Biggest challenges
 - Driver retention
 - Not a 9am-5pm job (no end time, long hours)
 - Varying schedules
 - High schools not mentioning truck program (Suggested Kish brings trucks to high schools, trade expos and CTE open house)
 - Trying to attract everyone (stigma about truck driving)
 - Reaching the younger population