



# MINUTES

## Welding Technology Advisory Committee Meeting

Date | time 4/3/2017 6:00 PM | Meeting called to order by Zachery Caccia

### In Attendance

#### Members Present:

Gene Fogle—Coordinator, DeKalb-Ogle Workforce Development Consortium

Chuck Bergsmith—Maintenance, Sauber Mfg

Zachary Miller—Superior Industrial Equipment

#### Members Absent:

Eric Almburg—Custom Welding & Repair

Robert Bailey—Swenson Spreaders

Mike Walt—Walt Limited

Mary Wright—HR Phillips Refrigeration

Dave Elliott—DeKalb High School

#### Others Present:

Zachery Caccia—Welding Instructor, Kishwaukee College

Bernie Pupino—Career Technologies Coordinator, Kishwaukee College

Bill Nicklas—Executive Director, Kishwaukee College Foundation

Joanne Kantner—Executive Dean of Learning Services, Kishwaukee College

Brianna Hooker—Administrative Assistant to Instruction, Recorder, Kishwaukee College

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the Fall 2016 Meeting were reviewed. No vote taken.

Zachery Caccia reported on SP17 enrollment data:

SP16 Heads	SP17 Heads	Heads Change		SP16 Credits	SP17 Credits	CH Change	CH%
137	124	-13		298.0	274.0	-24.0	-8.1%

Zachery reports that enrollment for this semester was looking good until the drop date signifying that tuition had not been paid. Enough students were dropped to cancel two classes (which is about 24 students). No thoughts as to why these students did not pay tuition and decided to no longer pursue courses this semester.

Joanne expresses the importance of determining why students drop. For financial reasons, there are programs in place such as WIOA that many students may be eligible for.

### Discussion of Industry Trends and Potential Training Needs

Zachery reports industry trends and needs are currently focused on pulse welding and stainless steel welding, specifically from Swenson Spreader. HA Phillips is also in need of ASME pipe welders.

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## Updating of Welding Lab

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Due to curriculum changes, Zachery reports interest in offering an advanced certification but the lab as is, does not have the resources. Bernie has been working on possible floor plans to rearrange to add more booths into the space we have. He has also been investigating other areas of the college that could be renovated to use as a welding lab. Bernie reports that doubling the booths that we currently have would be a substantial financial project (estimated \$350,000).

Committee brainstorms and discusses possible locations to lease, although renting space often has many logistic challenges.

Joanne announces a Manufacturing Grant meeting later in the week at the college and notes the need to consider welding, not just AET equipment. There is an industry desire to have more registered training programs in colleges. Joanne is not aware of monetary value of this grant at this time.

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## New Curriculum/Certificate Program and AAS

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Zachery provides handout of new curriculum to committee members.

Joanne presents possibility offering the advanced certification as a summer series. There would be a maximum of 12 weeks to work with in the summer. Zachery believes it could be a possibility but due to the advanced nature of the coursework, it would be difficult to cover the material in a short time period.

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## American Welding Society Accredited Testing Facility Accreditation

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Zachery announces Kishwaukee College is now an Accredited Testing Facility by the American Welding Society. Zachery would like to investigate as to whether the testing fee could be included in course fees for the program because students often have trouble affording the cost of the test once they are done with the program. If the testing fee was included in the course fees, financial aid would go toward testing.

Joanne expresses importance of making students aware as early as possible of the fee for the test at the end of the program so they can financially prepare ahead of time.

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## Budget and Tuition Update

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Due to the budget crisis in the state, Zachery reports that the college has chosen to increase tuition for certain programs by 50%. The rationale for this increase is the high ratio of contact hours and courses that are expensive to run with equipment costs which has not been accounted for in the past. For students who started the program full-time and only have second year classes left to take, they will pay the same tuition that they started the program at. Students new to the program or students who have first year courses left to take, will be subjected to the tuition increase.

Bill expands on this further and explains that many schools have higher tuition for programs with higher contact hours and enrollment does not seem to really be affected by it long term. It may be tough for current students who are affected by the tuition increase but it should be fine looking forward.

Chuck asks, with the tuition increase, how we compare to other area schools for welding programs. Joanne explains that it is difficult to directly compare programs because of different certifications/accreditation, making each program quite unique.

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## Announcements

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Zachery announces that the Pipefitters Union in Joliet hosted a welding contest a couple of months ago. A student from Kishwaukee College's program competed in the contest and won first place. He was offered an apprenticeship position from the Union.

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## Next Meeting Date / Adjournment

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11/6/2017 6:00 PM, Kishwaukee College, Room TBA.

Welding Standing Meeting Dates will be the First Monday in April and November unless otherwise noted.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:50 PM.