

Kishwaukee College
Diesel Power Technology
Spring 2022 Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: March 8, 2022
Time: 12:30pm-1:30pm

External Participants: 16

Erik Langholz – Meiborg Enterprises, LLC. – General Manager
Steve Deller – West Side Tractor Sales – Product Support Manager
Jeff Woodhouse – Lakeside International Trucks – Service Manager
Charlie Jensen – Lakeside International- General Manager
Charlie Heinz – Equipment Depot – Regional Recruiter
Lawrence Tennial – Rockford Mass Transit District – Maintenance Manager
Trevor Mcstoots – CIT Trucks – Service Manager
Jim Garner – CIT Trucks – General Manager
Scott Kingren – Vermeer Midwest – Service Manager
Leanne Harbaugh – Ditch Witch Midwest – Human Resources Manager
Matt Kuelz – Johnson Tractor – Director of Service
Otis Bell – Crown Lift Trucks – Regional Recruiter
Jamie Wilson – Altorfer Industries – Product Specialist
Mike McElmeel – Bobcat of Rockford – President
Melissa Selene – Bobcat of Rockford – Service Department
Tony Remke – Remke’s Garage – Owner

Internal Participants: 6

Jessica Berek – Associate Dean, BTE
Chase Budziak – Dean, BTE
Mark Engel – Diesel Power Faculty
LaCretia Konan – Dean of Workforce and Community Education
Terry Lynn Funston – Director of Curriculum and Program Development
Katie Macias - Minutes

Meeting Summary

I. Program Update

- Committee reviewed spring 2021 meeting minutes and approved them.
Dean shared spring 2022 enrollment data.
- Discussed the open Diesel Power faculty position and encouraged advisory committee members to refer interested candidates.
- Program Promotion: Workforce committee members continue to support the development of a promotional banner and several employees offered to promote

the program at their facilities using flyers or brochures at point-of-sale locations. Dean and department will finalize this topic by fall advisory meeting. Suggestions of including QR codes on banners, signage, and promotional cards that direct students to a DPT Facebook page.

- Reviewed upcoming fall schedule, registration dates, Tool Day and Employer Fair in August 2022.
- Program is working with Johnsbury High School to develop a bridge from HS to the KC program.

II. Interview Day Debrief

- Employers shared input on the annual Interview Day which took place the morning of the advisory meeting. Reviewed the purpose of Interview Day which is for students to complete their associates degree and certificates. Career Class is used as a prep to gain employment/internship, filling out job applications creating a portfolio, resume, and is a one credit course
- Employers were impressed with the level of engagement and preparation of students and stated that they liked the in-person format, the new venue in cafeteria, and keeping the event separate from the Horticulture Interview Day. Employers discussed some suggestions for assisting students with nervousness and preparation prior to interview day.
- Employers offered to be part of panel discussions for students earlier in the semester and recognized that the August employer fair is a good way to get students interested in career opportunities early in the DPT program.

III. Industry & Employer Discussion

- Future employment opportunities and need:
 - James Wilson states obtaining new equipment is difficult, the demand for techs to fix the older equipment is high and service support staff is needed.
 - Steve Deller states that retention of employees is difficult. Lakeside Trucks in Rockford will have 5-10 new additions and 60-70 organizational wide.
 - James Wilson states safety is a big issue, having the certified senior techs on hand to train is difficult.
- Length of Certificate Program:
 - Budziak asks employers if there is a need for a one-year certificate opposed to a two-year certificate.
 - Employers stated that the two-year certificate is the best option for students and that they would have significant skill and safety concerns about graduates who only have one year of education.
 - Members stated that the program is providing them the level of training needed and would like to assist the college with recruitment.
- Other: Employer Employers states students having and retaining their CDL is a preferred candidate. Electric and hybrid engines are not the future of construction

equipment and on-road employers find that the power grid is unable to sustain electricity needs for on-road transportation applications. Hydrogen cells are something to investigate for the future.

IV. Facilities and Maintenance of Program

- There are several facility upgrades on the horizon for the Diesel and Automotive programs, including renovation to the Resource Room that students use for wiring diagrams, researching and finding parts, and diagnostic manuals. Additionally, lecture classrooms are slated for renovations to furniture, learning space, and ADA accommodations.

V. Next Meeting: Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 6:30pm