

Truck Driver Training Program

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Time: 5:00pm – 6:00pm

External Participants: (4)

Craig Hayes - XPO

Marie Dimuidlie - Maplehurst Farms

Tanya Maher – Hines

Lindsey Loyd – Queens Trucking and Construction

Internal Participants: (6)

LaCretia Konan - Dean of WCE

Melissa Gallagher - Director of STT
&CE

Joseph Wisnow - CDL, Lead Training
Specialist

Darryl Nix - CDL Instructor

Jeffrey Taylor - CDL Trainer

Laura Gregory - Career and CE Specialist

I. Program Updates

a.) Program Outcomes:

Since January of 2022, 35 students have completed the CDL program. The program had 90% of the students pass on the 1st or 2nd attempt. Students complete their exam at the West Chicago facility. Seven students are currently in the program.

Upcoming classes:

March 27-June 1 (5-9:30pm) (Night Class) – is full with a waiting list

March 27-April 24 (7am-3pm)

May 1-May 25 (7am-4pm)

Two classes will be offered in June and another two classes in July.

Students are finding out about the program from various social media, website, businesses, and word of mouth. Staff will continue to promote the CDL program. Also share success stories from past KC students.

b.) Registration Process:

Students complete an interest form, then staff emails student information session zoom link. In the information session, discussion includes: the structure of the class, cost, general information, available funding, and how to register.

II. Discussion of current & Future:

a.) *Automatic verses manual*

All employers agreed that not having the manual endorsement was not a big deal. Most students after completing the KC-CDL program were able to complete the manual training with their employers within a week. XPO will hire with manual restriction.

b.) *What would the employers like to see add to the KC-CDL program?*

The employers mentioned different trailers.

Marie said super single tires. Very different experience for the students. Maplehurst may be able to let the KC-CDL program use their super single trailers.

c.) *Is 4 weeks long enough? Do the employers feel the students are well prepared?*

All employers agreed that the KC-CDL program does a great job preparing the students for success.

d.) *Employer Needs and Concerns*

Maplehurst said they will share dash cam footage to share with the students. This would give the students real life situations for discussion and problem-solving skills.

Students need to learn how to fix all the different components on the truck. Kish instructors do basic training. The program focuses mostly on training for the exam.

Mentioned making sure students know they have to register for the Drug and Alcohol clearing house. Kish can show them the website and give students directions. Federal law still requires students to pass drug screening.

Discussed the 5-week finishing school that XPO offers:

- Grading road test
- Driver responsibility (changing lights, tires, lines, mechanical stuff
- Rules and Regulations
- Backing trucks into docs
- Command of the vehicle

Employers discussed that getting a CDL license is different than being on the road. Switching trailers and moving cones closer would help better prepare the students for the road.

III. Questions/Answers

KC staff asked employers if they have any of the KC students employed at their companies to please send us success stories for marketing purposes.

XPO told instructors they can stop by XPO logistics facility with the KC-CDL students.