

Welding Technology Spring 2023 Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: May 4, 2023--**Time:** 12:30pm

External Participants: 3

Justin Gustafson - Apprentice Coordinator - Boilermakers Local 1

Bill Springer - Fabrication Foreman – Caldwell Group

Erika Davis - Talent Acquisitions Specialist - Entyre

Internal Participants: 4

Chase Budziak – Dean of Instruction

Zachery Caccia – Welding Faculty

Mitchell Meares – Welding Adjunct

Amanda Kost – Employment & Job Placement Services Coordinator

Catherine Macias – Minutes

Program Update

- a. Spring 2023 Enrollment
 - College up 12.4% since last spring
 - Welding Technology up 65 credit hours (+26.1%) since last spring
- b. Facilities
 - New welding lab location is under construction and is expected to be completed in fall of 2023. The new lab will have sections for pipe welding fabrication and welding booths. New space will be approximately twice the square footage of the current welding lab.
- c. Staff and Faculty Update
 - The program is always looking for additional adjunct faculty members.

II. Employer Discussion & Feedback

- a. Industry Update
 - Employers share there is a high demand for welders to fill positions. Mr. Caccia shares the Department of Labor predicts a shortage of 400,000 welders in the next few years due to retirement.
 - Committee members note that welding skills and education provide candidates with better chances for hiring, increased wages, and advancement.
- b. Employment Opportunities & Hiring Needs
 - In addition to welding skills, employers are seeking candidates who can pass a drug test, that are reliable and willing to show up for work and are willing and able to collaborate with others.
- c. Required Skills, Education, and Certifications – *Zachery Caccia*
 - College offers American Welding Society (AWS) certifications in any area of welding. Several employers refer their employees to the College for certification exams, which provides transferable welding qualifications from employer to employer without retesting advanced employees.

- Committee shares that American Welding Society certifications provide students with preference during the hiring process.
 - Boilermakers Local 1 will only hire candidates who have been certified through American Welding Society.
- d. New Technology & Emerging Trends
- Robotic welding will not replace human welders, as operators are still required to obtain manual certifications before operating robotic equipment.
 - Welders must be able to weld by hand, read blueprints, and draw welding layouts manually.