KISHWAUKEE COLLEGE

Diesel Power Technology Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: November 12, 2026

External Participants:
Teri Brown – Recruiter, Birkey's
Steve Deller – VP Product Support, West Side Tractor
Scott Kingren – Service Manager, Vermeer Midwest
Paul Koeppan Jr. – Store Manager, AHW, LLC.
George Orth – Maintenance Manager, Rockford Mass Transit
Tony Remke – Owner, Remke's Garage
Jake Hill – Product Support, Helm Trucking
Corrie Confer – General Manager, Lakeside Trucks
Drew Solace – Service Foreman, Lakeside Trucks
Derek Malget – Service Manager, Truck Country
Matt Lynn – Kishwaukee College Student, Mechanic, Rochelle RTC
Matthew Stalcup – Kishwaukee College Student, Mechanic, Vermeer Midwest

Internal Participants:
Jescelynne Gibbons – Dean of Instruction
Kristine Adzovic – Associate Dean of Instruction
Courtney Walz – Director of Development
Laura Gregory – Employment and Job Placement Services Coordinator
Trisha Troyer – Truck Driver Training Coordinator
Catherine Macias – Administrative Specialist I

I. College Updates

A. Enrollment
   i. Overall college enrollment is down slightly (-1.7%).

B. FY27 College Goals
   i. Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) are being revised to emphasize essential employability skills across all courses.

C. Digital Badges
   i. Digital badges are verified credentials that showcase student achievements and skills.
   ii. The College is exploring software that could support digital badging so students could highlight specific skills or the completion of the AI credential, for example.
   iii. While employers have not seen them in hiring materials, external partners expressed interest to learn more.

D. Spring Advisory
   i. Joint advisory committee meeting on April 7, 2027, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Department Updates

A. Fall Semester Updates
   i. DPT Enrollment
      1. In Fall 2025 the department produced 601 credit hours and in Fall 2026, 631 credit hours were produced.
   ii. Rev Up Closeout
      1. Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN), in collaboration with West Side Tractors and Kishwaukee College produced a video which can be found on Kish's website.
      2. A second video is currently in progress utilizing alumni.

B. Banner Project
   i. Presented West Side Tractor with banners and thanked them for their contributions.
   ii. Funding for the banners will support the Diesel Power Technology program.

C. Skills USA Club
   i. 23 students qualified for the state conference, including several who qualified in multiple categories. Of those who qualified, 22 students competed at the state competition.
   ii. Participation: Diesel Power Equipment Technology (13 students), Heavy Equipment Operator (12 students), Power Equipment Technology (6 students), and Nursing Assistant (2 students).
      1. State Competition Results: Braden Zuke earned 1st Place in Power Equipment Technology, and Abel Huerta earned 1st Place in Nurse Assisting.
      2. Zuke, Huerta, and Advisor Don Flink attended the National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

D. Skills USA Sponsorship
   i. Donations are being sought to support competition uniforms, registration fees, and travel expenses associated with the SkillsUSA Illinois Conference held April 22-24, 2027.
   ii. Sponsorship commitments are requested by April 15, 2027.

E. Faculty Update
   i. John Boesche announced his planned retirement at the end of Spring 2030.
   ii. Committee members asked if there was a timeline for replacement and Gibbons offered to share more information when available.

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II. Partner Updates

A. Hiring/Labor Market Needs

i. All committee members stated that business is good and the need to hire will remain strong into the future.