



Date: May 6, 2024
To: Dr. Laurie Borowicz
From: Barbara Leach
Re: Advisory Committee Notes

Spring 2024 Diesel Power Technology Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: March 6, 2024

Meeting Time: 12:00pm

External Participants:

Jon Wis – Service Director – Lakeside International Trucks
Corrie Confer – General Manager – Lakeside International Trucks
Jeff Burfield – Service Manager - Lakeside International Trucks
Steve Deller – VP Product Support – West Side Tractor
Lance Roberts – Service Manager – Crown Equipment Corporation
Scott Kingren – Service Manager – Vermeer Midwest
TJ Stahl - Service Manager – CIT Trucks
Chris Harrison – Director of Technical Recruiting – CIT Trucks
Jim Garner – General Manager – CIT Trucks
Kelly Quaintance – Director of Human Resources – Fire Service, Inc.
Brian Claus – Operations Manager – Fire Service, Inc.
Rob Carpenter – Shop Foreman – Fire Service, Inc.
Jeff Fues – Service Manager – Prairie State Tractor
Eric Christian – Regional Service Manager – AHW, LLC.
Sandy Seyller – Human Resources Coordinator – AHW, LLC.
Dan Heidenreich – AG Service Manager – AHW, LLC.
Dave Fastbender – AG Service Manager – R Equipment
Mike Bertalot – Shop Manager – XPO
Aurora Arteaga – Senior Human Resource Generalist – XPO
Tim Boyd – Senior Regional Maintenance Manager – XPO
Mike McElmeel – President – Bobcat of Rockford
Tamara Roubissoff – Service Manager – Rochelle RTC

Internal participants:

Chase Budziak – Dean of Instruction
Jescelyne Gibbons – Associate Dean of Instruction
Mark Engel – Diesel Power Faculty
Catherine Macias – Administrative Specialist

- I. Program Update
 - A. Spring 2024 Enrollment
 - i. College up 7.6% since last spring
 - ii. Diesel Power Technology up 16 credit hours (+3.3%) since last spring
 - 1. Last year's cohort consisted of 16 students; the max is 24 students.
 - 2. The goal is to enroll 24 students in the program for fall 2024.
 - 3. Donovan Flink, Faculty Instructor, worked with the bookstore to carry a variety of tool sets that can be paid with students' financial aid.
 - B. Equipment and Supplies
 - i. The College and grant funding have supported the department purchase of several oscilloscopes that have been useful in advanced electrical diagnostics.
 - ii. Recognition and gratitude to JX Truck Center for partnering with the college in providing access to the Peterbilt training software for students.
 - C. Additional
 - i. Mark Engel, faculty instructor, shared with the committee an update on recruitment for the 2024-2025 school year which included area high schools inside of the Kishwaukee College district.
 - D. Upcoming Events
 - i. Fall orientation meetings were held for prospective fall 2024 students. Fliers were shared with employers.
 - 1. Monday, March 11, 2024, at 7:00pm
 - 2. Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 7:00pm
 - 3. Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 7:00pm
- II. Discuss Current Department Projects
 - A. AED Foundation Accreditation
 - i. Association of Equipment Distributor Foundation (AED Foundation) is an accrediting body that evaluates diesel power construction and off-road programs to ensure that industry-specific curriculum and standards are met. Westside Tractor shared contact information and is willing to support the program through the process. The AED Foundation has many industry connections with employers and SkillsUSA. The hope is that AED Foundation will increase employment opportunities for students.
 - ii. Committee members are in support of AED Foundation review, as long as it does not diminish the Diesel Power Technology's focus on on-road and agricultural applications, in addition to construction

equipment. Dean noted that this is a priority for the College as well and will continue to explore opportunities with this in mind.

- iii. The department intends to explore opportunities with AED Foundation during summer or fall 2024.

B. "REV UP" Electric Vehicle (EV) Electrification Grant: F

- i. In December, the College applied for and was awarded a \$525,000 grant through the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to support faculty training, updated curriculum, and equipment acquisition in the areas of heavy-duty vehicle electrification. The college is one of three heavy duty programs approved for this grant in the state.
- ii. Gratitude expressed to CIT Trucks, Rockford Mass Transit, and West Side Tractor for their commitment of support of the College grant application. Educational partner support also provided by the KEC and the Northern Kane County Regional Vocational Tech Center (who received permission from Elgin Community College to work with Kishwaukee on dual-credit pathway opportunities with Kish).
- iii. Comments from the committee include the importance of safety training for electrified vehicles, exploration of a heavy-duty electric vehicle charger installed in the diesel lab, and commitments to recommend industry training opportunities to department faculty.

III. Employer Feedback & Discussion

A. Spring 2024 Interview Day Feedback

- i. Employers shared that students were well prepared and thanked Kishwaukee College. Employers noted improvement in student soft skills since COVID.
- ii. Next year students will be instructed to prepare employer questions and research the companies they choose to interview with.
- iii. Some employers suggested spreading out the event so that interview participants are not distracted by noise.
- iv. Employers suggested next spring Advisory committee begin at 12:30pm (rather than noon) to allow time for lunch, pack up, tour, etc.

B. Industry Trends, Training, Equipment

- i. Electrification in Industry
 1. Employers suggested safety training for electrification.
 2. Employers suggested basic wiring electrical system training.
 3. Employers shared that manufacturers provide support and encouraged the college to utilize the training provided.
 4. Employers shared that with electrification there is no rebuilding of parts; only diagnosing to replace parts with a new part.

5. Safety apparel for the students is mandatory. The gloves students will need expire every six months whether they have been used or are new.
 - ii. Employers shared that electrical and hydraulics training is needed for the newest candidates entering the career field.
- C. Truck Driver Training
- i. Kishwaukee Truck Driver Training program transitioned under the Business and Technical Education division as of January 2024.
 - ii. Diesel Power Technology graduates with a valid CDL-A license are highly valued as applicants in the industry.
 - iii. The committee is excited for new opportunities for collaboration between Diesel Power and Truck Driver Training programs and are willing to serve on the Truck Driver Training advisory committee in fall 2024 to brainstorm contract training opportunities.
 - iv. The College applied for a Noncredit Workforce Grant through ICCB. A portion of the grant will explore opportunities for Truck Driver Training students to more easily transition to Diesel Power Technology program in the future.
- D. Other & Industry Update
- i. There is high demand for trained Diesel Technicians in the industry. Many employers commended Kishwaukee College graduates and their preparedness in the field.