

## **Diesel Power Technology Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Date:** November 6, 2025

### **External Participants:**

Steve Deller – VP Product Support, West Side Tractor

George Orth – Maintenance Manager, RMTD

Eric Christian – Regional Service Manager, AHW, LLC.

Sandy Seyller – Coordinator Human Resources, AHW, LLC.

Scott Kingren – Service Manager, Vermeer Midwest

Tamara Roubisoff – Business Manager, Rochelle RTC

Amy Nelson – Talent Acquisition, Heritage Tractor

Tony Remke – Owner, Remke's Garage

- Course Revisions Feedback
  - Course revision underway for Communications 108--Communication in the Workplace and English 109--Intro to Technical Report Writing based on business partner feedback.
- Department Updates and Initiatives
  - Skills USA program has started
    - Flink (Kish faculty) proposed selling advertising on students' competition shirts to reduce costs for students.
    - Proposed levels: Bronze (\$500), Silver (\$1,000), and Gold (\$1,500).
    - Business partners expressed support for Skills USA overall and for the sponsorship idea.
    - Faculty will follow up to provide additional details.
  - Banners
    - Business partners asked for updates on the banner project and offered assistance from their teams if needed.
    - Berek stated that she would resume work on the project and work to update the committee soon.
- Planning for Spring 2026 Semester
  - Open part-time faculty position for evening hydraulics class; applicants can apply online through Kish website.
- CDL for DPT students
  - Two classes were held in 2024, each with seven students.
  - Four students enrolled for Fall 2025, trained in manual and automatic trucks.
  - Summer 2026 semester will offer an extended class option with training for Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP).

- Rev Up Grant
  - Grant concluded on June 30, 2025; all funds were expended.
  - Electric vehicle curriculum was introduced in spring 2025 and will continue in the program moving forward.
- Partner Updates
  - Deller (West Side Tractor) stated a slow start to the year, strong growth in business since April/May of 2025. Currently has 3 Kishwaukee College interns.
  - Business partners mentioned the challenges in keeping up with current technology in subscription based diagnostic information systems.
  - Roubissoff (Rochelle RTC) would like the College to explore the possibility of implementing a dedicated program for servicing refrigeration transportation units:
    - Rochelle RTC is one of the few independent shops servicing these units and is seeing increased demand.
    - Several customers of Rochelle RTC expressed willingness to donate units for training purposes.
    - Rochelle RTC offered to share the Mitchell software diagrams for older truck models with the DPT program if needed.
- Other Updates
  - Interview Day is planned for Tuesday, March 3, 2026, with Advisory meeting to follow.
  - Gregory (Kish) informed business partners about the Illinois Community Work Study (ICWS) grant funding which will reimburse 50% of student internship wages (up to \$16 per hour for up to 300 hours).