

Welding Technology Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: November 19, 2025

External Participants:

Justin Gustafson – Apprentice Coordinator - Boilermakers Local 1

- English/Communications Course Revisions Feedback
 - Course revisions underway for Communications 108--Communication in the Workplace and English 109--Intro to Technical Report Writing based on business partner feedback.
- Department Updates
 - Welding students built a pipe simulator in the welding lab to replicate job site experience.
 - Equipment Purchases
 - The College purchased a 90-ton press brake which is a hydraulic machine used for bending and shaping metal.
 - Working to replace older welding machines with newer models such as the Lincoln Powerwave 300C, which can perform stick, TIG, MIG, and flux-cored arc welding including AC and high-frequency TIG for welding booths.
 - Curriculum Planning and Updates
 - Caccia (Kish faculty) is working on writing a new quality manual for American Welders Society (AWS) in preparation for the program's upcoming reaccreditation.
- Heavy Metals Summer Experience
 - The department hosted students in the Heavy Metal Summer Experience (HMSE) in the summer semester:
 - HMSE introduced students to careers in the skilled trades across the region.
 - Berek (Kish) stated that the College plans to work with the DeKalb County Chamber to continue hosting this event in Summer 2026.
- Future Events for Spring Semester
 - Caccia will coordinate with Enbridge pipeline welders to schedule a visit to the welding program students in the Spring 2026 semester.
 - Gustafson, along with other Kishwaukee alumni, will visit the welding lab on Monday, November 24, 2024. They are planning to conduct an activity for the students related to buddy welding.
 - Spring 2026 Welding Expo to be held in May.

- Meares (Kish faculty) will continue working with Marketing to create videos of the welding program for social media to increase program exposure.
- Partner Updates
 - Hiring/Labor Market Needs
 - Gustafson (Boilermakers Union) shared that students coming out of the College's welding program are top notch welders and exceeding other programs.
 - There is a demand for female welders in the industry.