Welding Technology Advisory Committee Meeting Fall 2019

(Date \ time 10/17/2019 at 6:00pm
WT Meeting Called to Order at 7:10pm by Zachery Caccia)

Attendance

Members Present:
DJ Dirienzo - Cresswood
Mitchell Meares – Midway Welding
Tim Hughes — TPH Enterprises
Rachel Hoffer – Blount Intl.

KC Members Present:
Zachery Caccia—Faculty, Welding Technology
Kyra Rider -- Dean

Approval of Consent Agenda

Spring 2019 Enrollment Report followed by discussion of spring enrollment.
Review of meeting minutes from Spring 2019.

Discussion of Industry Trends and Potential Training Needs—Questions for Employers

1. Discussion of industry trends and potential training needs
   • Rachel mentioned that soft skills are lacking in a lot of their workforce at Blount, the majority of employees that are let go are due to attendance issues.

2. What are your current or projected employment needs of your organization for welding and fabrication over the next 2-3 years?
   • Blount needs to hire about 30 GMAW welders annually.
   • Cresswood needs machinists, they are in pretty good shape for welders right now.

3. Are the majority of your new entry-level positions filled by individuals with previous training or candidates you are training in-house?
   • Blount does not provide any training in house, if a new employee has a gone through the college welding program that is sufficient. Cresswood has a little bit of a learning curve with the fabrication and heavy material thicknesses - our fabrication, layout and advanced welding courses are addressing those areas.

4. Does the Kishwaukee College Welding Technology program provide the level of training that you require of new employees? Too much or too little?
   • With the advanced classes it is looking much better.
   • Robotic welding was discussed. In large manufacturing facilities robot welders are often used.
• It was mentioned that Elgin Community College has an orientation type of course that covers things like grinding and machine controls. This may be something that Kishwaukee could consider. Zachery commented that if we were to add an orientation class to either of our certificates we would have to remove a welding course in order not to exceed the maximum number of credit hours. It may be better to cover that material in the other classes as we are doing now.

5. If there is an employer demand for welding and fabrication training, what are you recommendations for getting more students into this training pipeline?
   • More social media presence is a good way to promote the welding program.
   • Getting someone to go to area high schools to promote the program to the students, and answer questions would be good.

6. The WT 267 course was split into two separate courses. WT 267 is now ASME PIPE I 5G and the new WT 268 is ASME Pipe II 6G

7. We have finally gotten the WT 152 Math for Welding course approved, and it should be running for Fall 2020 in an online format.

8. With the WT 267 and WT 268 course revision and the new WT 152 course changes the minimum instructor credentials were discussed for these courses. The following minimum instructor credentials were established
   • WT 152 – Minimum of 3 years work experience in metal fabrication.
   • WT 267 – Minimum 5G SMAW open root pipe certification/qualification
   • WT 268 – Minimum 6G SMAW open root pipe certification/qualification

9. The committee also reviewed the existing minimum required instructor credentials for all of the other WT courses and agreed that they were sufficient and necessary and still suitable.

New Business

None

Next Meeting

Tentative date of April 30, 2020