

Welding Advisory Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2023
Tech Center Room 134
12PM

ATTENDANCE

Terri Cummings, Dean of Business & Tech-DACC; Joe Daugherty HVAC Instructor-DACC; Gina Davis, Perkins-DACC; Mike Jaruseski, Danville Metal; LaTana Lillard, Advising-DACC; Jim Picillo, Watchfire Signs; R.J. Rowland, Welding Instructor-DACC; Tim Scarlett, Danville Metal

OLD BUSINESS

Updates have occurred in the welding lab with new booths that have blinds and positioners that allow students to clamp their work into place. More updates are needed.

NEW BUSINESS

The college is working on a gas loop that will pipe the gas to each booth rather than stand alone bottles. This will save the college money on rental and gas deliveries.

Needs. R.J. led a dialogue about the needs of the two companies that were represented at today's meeting. Watchfire continues to anticipate growth in their industry and the need for more welders will present future opportunities. They are dedicated to identifying motivated candidates that fit in with their work culture and then working with DACC and R.J. to put together specific welding training sessions.

Danville Metal asked about apprenticeships and R.J. explained the process through the Department of Labor and WIOA. Students can be reimbursed for tuition and mileage and a company that hires the student to apprentice can get reimbursed for 50% of the wages for the first 6 months the student works for them.

R.J. expressed that if a company can identify excellent candidates with a craftsmanship attitude, exceptional eyesight, that have outstanding fine motor skills; he can teach them to weld.

Changes. The welding department would like to make some changes to the welding and advanced welding certificate by changing the sequence of the courses. R.J. conveyed that if he could move WELD 270-Welding for Manufacturing to the first set of classes in the Welding Certificate it would be easier to

retain students. This would move WELD 180-Structural Welding to the Advanced Welding Certificate. This change would also allow students to start work for industry after that first certificate and complete the second certificate while they work.

The industry partners approved of that change. Both Danville Metal and Watchfire Signs mentioned that their employees must also go through rigorous testing before they work on tools, parts, or projects for the company.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Terri talked to the group about micro-credentialing and competency based training as a way to enhance the welding program. This led to an exchange of ideas that included talk about immersive learning and virtual reality (VR) in a welding situation. Both Lincoln Electric and Miller Electric do offer VR helmets that might be of use as a VR trainer that would show students their mistakes and how to correct them.

R.J. started a discussion with the members concerning College Express. Several of the faculty at DACC would like to see a rotation model implemented that would include welding, drafting, manufacturing, and agriculture. This would give high school students a taste of each industry to help them find areas that they may excel in. Both Watchfire and Danville Metal see value in a rotation for college express.

A tour of industry for Manufacturing Day was held last year in partnership between DACC and Vermilion Advantage was a success and Terri thanked Danville Metal and Watchfire Signs for participating in that activity. It is a great way for the community to see how manufacturing has evolved and is no longer the 'dirty' industry it once was, but instead is a highly sophisticated technical industry. Terri also mentioned that April 28 will be the Career Expo at Palmer Arena, another partnership between DACC and Vermilion Advantage.

Mike invited R.J. and his classes to Danville Metal at any time to tour the facilities so that students can see why the quality of their welds is so important.

As scholarship coordinator for the DACC Foundation, Gina voiced that there is always scholarship money for hvac and welding.

DATE of NEXT MEETING

TBD 2024

MINUTES SUBMITTED by:

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa J. Osborne

Lisa J. Osborne
Administrative Assistant
Business and Technology