



Welding Advisory Board Meetings: Fall 2016

Wednesday, December 14, 2016, 6:00 pm in Room 1643

A. Welcome and Introductions

Vicki Shipman called the meeting of the Welding Advisory Board to order at 6:16 pm.

Present:

Ian Able—Mobil Mini; **Steven Jones**—LPC student and Mike Maier, Inc.; **Vicki Shipman**—Las Positas College; **Caryl Shill**—Las Positas College; **Balbir Gakhal**—Las Positas College; **Kerry Shatel**—PG&E; **Scott Miner**—Las Positas College; **Don Carlson**—Las Positas College; **Deborah Mann**—Consultant Las Positas College; **Neil Carey**—Las Positas College; **Bill Johnson**—Las Positas Collge and Turner Construction Company; **Joe McNealy**—Livermore High School; **Ed Woodworth**—Tri-Valley ROP

Unable to attend: **Dan Danner**—Granada High School; **Mark Harrill**—Allianz Welding Supply; **Todd Stinn**—Las Positas College; **Raul Poblete**—Carpenter Training Committee; **Patrick Pickerill**—Peridot Precision Manufacturing

B. Approval of Prior Advisory Meeting Minutes (May 2016)

Corrections: none

MSC: Kerry Shatel/Bill Johnson

Unanimous approval

C. Quick Facts for Advisory Board

Vicki Shipman: Advisory boards are very important to the college. Industry supplies occupational expertise and current industry knowledge. This expertise helps LPC students become better prepared as they enter their chosen occupations. Industry board members

are also key partners in work-based learning activities which enhance a student's educational experience.

D. Industry Update: New Technologies, Training Needs, Hiring Needs, Industry Outlook

Summary

New Technology: Industry still has need for the traditional welding methods along with newer methods such as laser welding and, robotic welding cells and automation.

Training Needs: Industry has a need for people who can pass AWS, API and ASME welding tests.

Hiring Needs: Industry needs experienced people—3+ years of experience. There is a gap between industry needs and experienced workers.

Industry Outlook: The need for welders continues to grow due to the need to update an aging infrastructure, expanding growth and the replacement of older workers.

Discussion:

New Technology

- **Kerry Shatel:** PG&E is focused on infrastructure and efficiency.
- **Scott Miner** and **Balbir Gakhal:** asked what welding methods PG&E needed Stick or Tig.
- **Kerry:** traditional methods; depended on need for a particular project.

Training Needs

- **Joe McNealy:** asked about Butte College's welding program.
- **Kerry:** gave an overview of the Butte's program including how and why it was started and its current success.
- **Deborah Mann:** asked what makes Butte's program different?
- **Kerry:** local employers and suppliers were, and are, very supportive of the program! They understood the college was educating their future employers and future customers. Butte College offers a two day outreach program to local high schools.
- **Joe:** took eight Livermore High students last year. The suppliers and the college gave the students a lot of stuff to entice them.
- **Scott:** LPC is working with ROP to create welding classes at the high schools. These classes will allow high school students to receive college credit. He shared information about the two week welding camp offered summer 2016. This outreach is helping to bring more students into the program.

- **Balbir:** high school students need more career guidance to help them explore and learn about careers in the trades.
- **Kerry:** Butte's instructors were willing to make sacrifices as they learned and grew to ensure the program was successful; these instructors attended PG&E training program.
- **Ed Woodworth:** asked if PG&E's training program was free.
 - **Kerry:** yes.
- **Scott:** asked Kerry about a good welding program model.
 - **Kerry:** Butte's is good, but not perfect. The program is structured like a real job! There are buzzers for breaks and lunch. Students go to school from 7:30-4 and a half day on Saturday. Attendance is part of a student's grade and a pre-test is required to be admitted.
 - **Scott:** it takes a committed group of students to run a program like that. LPC program is open all students; not test required to take a class.
 - **Steven Jones:** LPC does have enough classes to make it look like a job; we need to do more outreach to students.
- **Vicki Shipman:** asked what LPC needs to do to improve their program?
- **Kerry:** LPC has a good future; we (PG&E) need more experienced workers.
- **Scott:** LPC welding students need to get training/experience prior to going into PG&E Training program.
 - **Kerry:** PG&E are hiring journeyman through their internship program (PG&E has a training center in San Ramon).
- **Steven Jones:** students need more internship opportunities! Students can learn so much more at an internship; it gives them a wider perspective of what is needed in the industry.
- **Vicki:** asked if an internship was a part of LPC's welding certificate.
 - **Bill Johnson:** said it is a liability issue.
 - **Deborah Mann:** said the college could take care of the liability of a student.
 - **Bill:** explained it is an employer product outcome liability issue rather than a workers comp problem. Non-union shops do take on apprentices. Every trade has some welding component to it. California industries are desperate for workers.

Hiring Needs and Industry Outlook

- **Bill:** California industries are desperate for workers.
- **Vicki:** the welding industry is in a boom cycle right now. "How long will this boom last?"
- **Bill:** it is hard to tell. It's all about ebb and flow.

- **Vicki:** the Tri-Valley has a growing need for welders due to the growth of manufacturers, such as Gillig, coming to the area.
- **Scott:** expressed concern that current students do not want to start at the bottom.
 - **Ed:** wanted to know if students were told they would start at the bottom.
- **Kerry:** students do not want to leave the area where they grew up to gain experience. He continued that students need to know they may have to move or commute. Additionally, globally, we are seeing a 're-shoring' of manufacturing jobs and California is losing these jobs to other states.
 - **Scott:** I encourage students to explore beyond the Tri-Valley.
- **Balbir:** students are having a hard time finding jobs since many companies require five years of experience.
 - **Kerry:** industry is having a problem finding enough experienced people in the trades to meet contract needs.
 - **Deborah:** asked Kerry, "What skills are missing?"
 - **Kerry:** technical skills are missing; there is a gap between industry needs and experienced workers.

E. Faculty Report

Program Update—Scott Miner:

- Scott shared information regarding the new laser welder. He is trying to put through three new classes for this program: lecture, part lecture/part hands-on, and practical application. He hopes this program will fill the upcoming need in industry for laser welding. There will be a need for students to look at welding like a science which would include a math component.
 - **Caryl Shill:** asked if LPC could develop a welding technology program similar to engineering technology.
 - Scott responded that a cohort was possible if the college was willing to have smaller classes! Due to the passage of a large construction bond, LPC might get a new lab which would give them the opportunity to change program.
 - **Balbir:** a laser program could entice students who don't want to get their hand dirty.
 - **Ian Abel:** LPC should follow through with the laser welding program! The math and science aspect of robotics is vital; robotics is faster and more convenient.

- **Scott:** is trying to push through is a two unit Welding Workplace Safety class. Students would earn an OSHA 10 card which is valuable in the industry; this class should be available in Spring 2018. He is also working to update curriculum and books.
 - **Don Carlson** confirmed that date.

- **Caryl:** asked about a high school welding camp for summer 2017.
 - **Scott:** said maybe. There is some ROP pushback about how much time students are in the classroom. Scott asked, the educators, what was better for high school students—one evening four hour class or a two day, two hour afternoon class. The response was the afternoon class was better.

- **Kerry Shatel:** shared information about AWS's scholarships. Last year the program gave out \$26,000. This year it will be more. Three scholarship programs: District and National, Ten \$1,000 scholarships for high school students. As of 2017, twenty million to fund grants for high school welding programs. All information found on the AWS's website. The scholarship money is coming from industry; they want to give back.

- **Scott Miner:** shared information about Manex's need for in-house NIST training. LPC has the potential to help with this training need. Scott is working with George Chao from Manex to move this partnership forward.

Integration Ideas for Curriculum

Discussion--none

E. Next Steps

Discussion—none

Final Remarks:

Scott: thanked everyone for attending. He appreciated the feedback and hoped he can give an update of program improvements at the next meeting in Spring 2017.

Kerry: the primary focus is to bridge the gap between high school to college to PG&E.

Vicki: shared information regarding the industry focused major job fairs in the spring.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40

Minutes submitted by Caryl Shill

