



**Central New Mexico
Community College**
School of Skilled Trades & Arts

WELD Advisory Committee Minutes, Fall 2023

Date: October 11, 2023

Number of Attendees: 16

Called to order: 5:00 pm

Adjourned: 6:05 pm

Chairperson: Paul Bauman

Recorder: Jennifer Woods

Location: CNM Advanced Tech Center and Zoom

Members present from industry: Paul Bauman, Wagner Eqpt. Co. Bauman Industrial; Nicholas Blodgett, Stainless Motors; Stephen Boliver, VA Hospital; Paul Disque, JATC 412; Stephanie Georgio, Kairos Power; Tori Shauger, APS; Andy Spurgeon, Pro-Fab; Michael Thomas, Rocky Mountain Testing, AWS

Members present from CNM: Manuel Aragon, Instructor, Phelan Gavaldon, Instructor, Program Chair, Sharon Gordon Moffett, Interim Dean, Ron Hackney, Instructor, Chris Martinez, Instructor, Roderigo Padilla, Interim Assoc. Dean, Ashley Prelo, WCS, Jennifer Woods, Academic Tech Assistant

Next scheduled meeting: To be Decided for Spring 2024

I. Welcome/Introductions: Paul opened the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

II. Minutes: Minutes from the spring 2023 meeting approved as written.

III. Reports:

- 1. College Updates:** Sharon gave some STA updates. Amy Ballard and Joe Schaub retired, so Sharon is the Interim Dean and Roderigo is the Interim Associate Dean. The college is in the process of hiring a new VP of Education and Learning, and once that person has been selected, we will start the search for a new Dean and Associate Dean for STA.

There was a flood in our TC west building, but the management team and faculty worked tirelessly to make sure the students did not miss any time in their labs.

Sharon reminded the group to please vote in the November election. There is a bond issue that will help to fund the replacement/upgrade building projects for STA.

The college is in the process of creating a new strategic plan for 2024-2026. There have been focus groups across the city. The data collected from these groups will be analyzed, in order to form a new vision and mission for the college.

Welding classes are being taught at the mobile welding lab in Rio Rancho, with 16 students. We are planning to teach welding at a shared use facility in Rio Rancho. We are not sure when the facility will be ready.

In June we broke ground on a new trades facility on Main campus. It will open in 2025.

- 2. Enrollment Stats:** Fall enrollment for STA is about 312 students, a 5% increase from last fall. The college has around 19,000 students enrolled. In Welding, we conferred 58 certificates, and 34 degrees. Fill rate is 88%. There will be a welding curriculum meeting on October 20, for common course numbering to help foster transferability between colleges that have welding programs.
- 3. Student qualifications:** There were 80 student certifications through the third quarter of 2023.



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4. Ron reported that in order to make the program better, the faculty agreed that the program is weak in fabrication, layout and critical thinking skills. The blueprint reading class will benefit students with a lab component, so that students could better grasp the concepts. He is also increasing the contact hours for the qualifications classes. These are changes that have been submitted to the curriculum committee and if approved, will go into effect in the fall of 2024. Almost all of the 4th term students have been hired, but the companies that hired them are willing to wait until students complete their training at CNM. Most of these students will be taking jobs out of state, particularly in Colorado.

IV. Old Business - None at this time.

V. New Business: Ashley from the *Workforce and Community Success* division talked about the services offered. employersupport@cnm.edu She and her team can create hiring and recruitment events, job postings, info sessions, classroom visits, apprenticeships and internships.

Sharon remarked that one of the barriers for new students is the price of the tools needed for the program, which runs about \$1,650. We have a possible opportunity for funding which would allow us to buy an inventory of first term tool kits, which would remain as part of the inventory of the welding program. We are looking at this in several of our programs. Chris said that it is a good idea, but the hard part is keeping track of the tools. He said our Automotive program has a great set up now, where students can check out equipment that can be scanned, and the student ID is also scanned. There is also the issue of replacement of consumables. Some equipment will be used up in the intro classes. We will continue this conversation.

Michael mentioned the next AWS meeting in November. He mentioned that AWS has funding for scholarships, so students could get help buying their tools. This would probably apply to students who have already completed first term classes.

Tori from APS shared that the focus of APS at this time is to steer students into a meaningful career. Half of the APS transportation building off of Griegos will be made into a manufacturing tech center, along with welding, electrical, automotive and diesel. She would like to collaborate with CNM in order to make this happen. This would be for higher level HS students as well as CNM students. Roderigo would be the person to help with this.

VI. Reports from Industry Members: Paul Disque said that his numbers have tripled in the last 3 years. He has more apprentices than he has ever had before and the union is building new facilities for training. He has some large projects coming up.

Stephen Boliver, who is the plumbing shop supervisor at the VA Hospital, is short on workers. He is trying to secure federal funding for his workers to get enrolled at CNM.

Stephanie Georgio with Kairos Power says she has constant work. Kairos builds small nuclear reactors that provide clean energy. She needs welders, machinists and fabricators. She is in frequent contact with Ashley.

Andy Spurgeon said that he is not looking for welders at this time, but business is growing.

Nicholas Blodgett said that Stainless Motors has a new COO. He is short on workforce. He is not in need of welders, but needs machinists.

Sharon asked that the members take a moment to fill out the survey (links below). The members should also review the learning outcomes (attached to these minutes)

VII. Adjournment: 6:05 pm

The Welding program Learning Outcomes are attached to these minutes.

Member Survey: <https://bit.ly/cnmadvisory>



Welding Program Learning Outcome

Welding Technology, Associate of Applied Science

Welding, Certificate of Completion

Upon successful completion of these programs, the students will be able to:

1. Operate and safely use basic welding hand tools and equipment in a safe manner.
2. Perform basic and advance operations on a variety of welding machines and equipment.