



## WELD Advisory Committee Minutes, Spring 2024

**Date:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024

**Number of Attendees:** 17

**Called to order:** 12:00 pm

**Adjourned:** 12:45 pm

**Chairperson:** Paul Bauman

**Recorder:** Jennifer Woods

**Location:** CNM Advanced Tech Center and Zoom

**Members present from industry:** Paul Bauman, Wagner Eqpt. Co.; Shawn Coffey, VHS Welding Instructor; Jordan Coriz, Airgas; Marcos Cordero, Airgas; Cristino Edwell, Airgas; Stephanie Georgio, Kairos Power; Ed Sanchez, JATC 412 Welding Coordinator; Melodee Saiz, APS; Michael Thomas, Rocky Mountain Testing

**Members present from CNM:** Manuel Aragon, Instructor; Phelan Gavaldon, ELTR Instructor/Manufacturing Chair; Ron Hackney, Instructor; Jackie Lamoureux, Interim Assoc. Dean; Chris Martinez, Instructor; Roderigo Padilla, Interim Assoc. Dean; Ashley Prelo, Outreach Mgr.-WCS; Jennifer Woods, Academic Tech Assistant

**Next scheduled meeting:** TBD for fall 2024

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

**II. Minutes:** Minutes from the fall 2023 meeting approved as written.

### III. Reports:

- College Updates:** Roderigo reported: We now have our VP of Education and Learning, and she will be leading the search for a new permanent STA dean. When that person is on board, a search will begin for two permanent associate deans. The bill that was passed through the state legislature will be signed by the governor in July. The operating appropriations will increase by 2.7%. This will cover equipment replacement/renewal and building renovations. Workforce apprenticeships will also receive additional funding.

The college has completed the college wide integrated program review (CIPR). The welding program received a sustain designation. The new skilled trades building on main campus is progressing, and will be ready to occupy in fall 2025. *College Day* is March 8. The third annual *Women in Trades Summit* will be March 22 on Main campus. Industry partners are invited to participate. The SkillsUSA state competition will also be at Main campus April 11-13. Graduation is May 4 at Tingley Colosseum.

STA needs HVAC instructors, both full and part time. Job postings are on our web site.

- Enrollment/graduation stats:** Enrollment at the college this spring stands at 16,888. Enrollment in the Welding program is 852, and the fill-rate is 74%. All of Skilled Trades is at 2,969. All the other schools at CNM are down in enrollment. Graduation numbers: Spring of 2023, there were ten AAS degrees, and 20 welding certificates. Last summer there were 12 AAS degrees, and 17 certificates. In fall 2023 we had 15 AAS degrees, and 14 certificates.
- Equipment:** We are continuing to replace old equipment. We are working on installing the new welders, and have received drill presses which can be used in the fabrication classes. We also have a new tube and pipe bender.
- We are in partnership with RR Public Schools. Currently we have 16 students who are using the mobile welding lab at the RR campus.



School of Skilled Trades & Arts

5. Ron said that he is placing our graduates all over the state of New Mexico. Arcosa, Superior, Klinger Construction, LANL, Englund Welding, AmFab, and many more. Our goal is to make sure every industry niche is represented so employers have a fair shot at hiring our students. Students are getting great salaries too. The fact that the CNM program has won many awards and competitions has boosted the reputation of our CNM grads. The teachers at CNM welding are the highest caliber.

**IV. Old Business:** Paul asked about the cost of the tool kits that were discussed at the last meeting. Ron said that funds are available for tool purchase in the students' financial aid package. Most CNM students qualify for the Opportunity scholarship, so purchasing tools is usually not a problem. The program tool list is always being updated. The **Opportunity** scholarship allows for \$50 per credit hour to cover fees. That means a full-time student will get an additional \$750 towards tools or equipment. This scholarship is available for students right out of high school. The **Lottery** scholarship is different in that, a student needs to complete 12 hours of school with a 2.5 grade point average in order to be eligible to use the scholarship. The welding program has students from both scholarship sources.

**V. New Business:** Ashley discussed the Workforce and Community Success department (WCS) at CNM. This department connects employers with resources available at the college. The WCS can help employers with internships, apprenticeships, and there are funds available to help pay for these. Information sessions, career fairs, hiring events and classroom visits can be scheduled too. Job postings can be uploaded to [cnm.edu/hirecnm](http://cnm.edu/hirecnm).

Ashley can be contacted at [aprelo@cnm.edu](mailto:aprelo@cnm.edu).

Jackie discussed some curriculum changes. Some classes are being modified. Fabrication has been added to nearly every class. Three classes were removed from the curriculum. The students will have more lab hours in order to work on projects. These changes take effect next fall. This is all in response to industry partners' recommendations.

**VI. Reports from Industry Members:** Paul said he needs workers.

Shawn teaches at Valley High School. He is working on changing the welding program from machining to fabrication. Three of his graduates went to Yearout. Two others went into apprenticeship programs. His students are very excited to learn more. Shawn would like to bring his advanced students to the CNM welding labs for a tour. Ashley can set that up for him.

Airgas – The three attendees from Airgas said that they partner with the local Union. Companies like Superior are begging for more student graduates. Airgas has a student discount card for all the welding students, so they can get a 10% discount on supplies.

Edward with Local 412 has a new training center which will open in July. He will be expanding into Las Cruces and Espanola.

Stephanie with Kairos said that the company has finished testing on their first test unit. The team will start work on the next prototype vessel. This means they are looking for more machinists, welders and fabricators.

Melodee from APS said that APS now has over 500 in-house interns, all being paid \$15 an hour. On March 18, there is a construction event at Berna Facio. Shawn said that he has 17 interns right now. He is giving these students on-the-job training.

Mike T. said the next AWS meeting is March 21 at Autoworkers Local 495, near the airport.

The members were reminded to please take the short advisory survey. Links are on the agenda.

**VII. Adjournment:** 12:45 pm