



WELDING Advisory Committee Minutes – October 29, 2015

Date: Thursday October 29, 2015

Number of Attendees: 17

Called to order: 5:40 pm

Adjourned: 6:30 pm

Chairperson: John Stubbs, Mega Corp

Recorder: Jennifer Woods

Members present from industry: **Ryan French**, Airgas; **Terrance Habish**, Stainless Motors; **Roy Herrera**, Miller Electric; **John Stubbs**, Mega Corp.; **Seve Quinn**, Mega Corp.; **Rob Ellsworth**, Mega Corp.; **Denise Palya**, Outside Sales, Airgas; **Richard Castillo**, Owner, Castillo Prestress; **Patrick Castillo**, Castillo Prestress; **Luis Gonzalez**, Mega Corp.

Members present from CNM: **Amy Ballard**, Associate Dean; **Amanda Glennon**, CTE Outreach Manager; **Sharon Gordon-Moffett**, Perkins Grant Manager/Dir. Experiential Learning; **Ron Hackney**, Welding Instructor; **Chris Martinez**, Welding Instructor; **Trenten Moore**, Welding Instructor; **Jennifer Woods**, Academic Technical Asst.

Next scheduled meeting: Thursday, April 14, 2016

I. Welcome/Introductions: John Stubbs opened the meeting and introductions were made all around.

II. Minutes: Minutes from the spring meeting were accepted.

III. Reports:

- New member Robert Bretelle, who is a welding instructor at Rio Grande HS, was not able to attend this meeting. He sent an email to Jennifer earlier in the day to give this report in absentia: *"I am unable to attend the welding advisory meeting, but I would like to give you an update on the RGHS welding program. Every year we compete at the Skills USA competition and have a very high success rate. Last year we won welding sculpture and took 2nd in the welding competition. We also started showing student work in the Albuquerque Metro Art Show. Last year we took 1st and 3rd in mixed media sculpture. Our program continues to grow and has maintained popularity with students at RGHS. I will try to attend future meetings."*
- Amy reported that according to 2014 figures, CNM had 229 declared welding majors; fifty one certificates were handed out and there were twenty one AAS grads from the Metals Technology degree. CNM is not hurting for welding students. The only thing we lack to grow the program is larger facilities. We have a mobile welding lab, but it is a challenge finding power for it. We also have some air quality issues in the lab, and are seeking funding to fix this. We are doing some dual credit classes.
- Ron reported that he has been working with Pat Bauman, a local CWI, who owns his own business and works with LANL. Pat came to Ron's class and out of 24 students, he certified 23. The one person who did not make it will retest later on. He said that the faculty are working to update the curriculum, in order to make smoother transitions between classes. The curriculum also needs to respond to trends in the industry.
- Amy said that we recently hired two new part-time instructors.



- Trenten said we did well at SkillsUSA: At State, we took first in welding fabrication; first, second and third in individual; first and second in sculpture. In the National competition, we took third in sculpture, and third in team fabrication.
- Sharon explained about her role as the manager of the Federal Perkins grant. CNM receives about \$1.2 million to ensure that career technical education is being taught along with a strong academic curriculum to complement the programs. The grant funds the purchase of state of the art equipment, along with supporting professional development for faculty. SkillsUSA state competition will be April 6-9, 2016. The in-house competition will be November 25. Mega Corp organizes the welding competitions. CNM contestants are still reaching for the gold at the national level, but there are other schools in the country that consistently turn out winners.
- Sharon remarked on the professionalism of the welding contestant at the National competition. Soft skills are a big part of the competitive picture, and CNM students always excel in this area.

IV. Old Business - None

V. New Business

- John asked Terrance from Stainless Motors to comment on its business and hiring practices. The company fabricates stainless steel motors for the pharmaceuticals industry. They have three welders now, and Terrance thinks that the welding grads from CNM are top-notch. He added that he thought the machinists coming from CNM had weaker skills. Amy said she will discuss his concerns with the machine tooling faculty, and we will invite him to that advisory committee in order to hear his views. Sharon would like to see an example of the test that is given to new hires, so we can assess where problems may lie. Terrance said he thought the problem was with basic math skills. He reports that their machining skills are not up to par either.
- Amy commented that math is taught in all programs and math content is specific to each discipline. CNM is open to hearing comments from industry about our curriculums.
- Richard talked about his company Castillo Prestress. They prestress heavy structural elements, such as you would find in highway systems and parking structures. They don't do a lot of welding, but he is always looking for people who can read plans, organize, and can be flexible during the work day. He says that welding skills are a narrow skill set, and most welding grads do not have an all-around set of skills that would be useful for his company.
- Patrick is Richard's son, 13 years old, and is learning his father's business. He is looking forward to going to college, and becoming a structural engineer, so he can take over for his father.
- Roy said that our program pushes out many talented graduates, but without a lot of other skills, this very competitive job climate makes it difficult for a graduate to compete. The industry requires more than just an entry level worker. Workers today have to have many skills to remain competitive and this is difficult to achieve in a two-year program.
- John said that the state SkillsUSA competition could use more judges.
- Ron expressed thanks to John and Rob at Mega Corp for their kind donation of time for welding class field trips.
- Amanda spoke about CTE day, February 26, 2016 from 9:00 to 2:00 pm. There will be 2,000 HS students, 9th through 12th grades touring our facilities.
- Next meeting will be April 14, 2016
- After the meeting, John Stubbs led a tour of the Mega Corp facility and Luis and Roy presented demonstrations to the group on some of the newest welding equipment.

VI. Adjournment 6:30 pm