



TRUCK DRIVING Advisory Committee

Date: April 7, 2015

Called to order: 12:20 pm

Adjourned: 1:30 pm

Chairperson: Vardis Gaus

Person completing report: Jennifer Woods

Members present from industry: **Edi Johansen**, DMC Logistics; **Keith Hartnett**, Admiral Beverage Corp.; **Edward Mizusawa**, CGL; **Carmen Marin**, CGL; **Chris Brown**, CGL

Members present from CNM: **Amy Ballard**, AT Assoc. Dean; **John Bronisz**, AT Dean; **Vardis Gaus**, CDL Instructor & Transportation Chair; **Diana Lucero**, CDL Instructor; **John Morningstar**, CDL Instructor

Next scheduled meeting: Not decided. Fall meeting will also include Diesel Technology

I. Welcome/Introductions: Vardis welcomed all and introductions were made

II. Minutes: Minutes from Fall 2014 meeting were accepted

III. Reports: Vardis reported on our graduation rates:

- 34 finished the program since the last Advisory meeting, and 32 took the test. All but 3 finished the testing. Twenty nine successfully tested.
- This term, 36 students are getting ready to test. Summer class will be big. Combining night and distance learning classes and the one-term students means we may have about 50 students this summer.
- The increase in students is due to the increase in class limits, so more people are registering. The cap had been 24 and now it is 28. There is an attrition rate of about one third, but a higher cap means that classes are larger, even after some drop out.
- The Distance Learning classes have been showing a higher retention rate too. This is due to the change in the curriculum a year ago, creating more blended classes. Students are able to get out into the trucks sooner than before.
- Potentially we have 35 students for testing. Last year at this time it was only 20-22.
- The PTDI annual report will be filed by April 30.
- We are getting two new trucks by May 30. A Kenworth and a Peterbilt.
- We have two new part-time instructors because of increased student enrollment.
- Question: How is enrollment now, compared to five years ago? Vardis says it is - **(A)** Higher: Attrition rate was higher five years ago, especially the night classes. And **(B)**, the distance learning classes allow students to work at their jobs while in school. **(C)** – There is an improvement in the CDL test scores. A hands-on approach gives students a broader understanding, so they do better on the tests. We are doing a better job of teaching students.

IV. Discussion:

- Keith Hartnett: We need more CDL drivers for beverage trucking. This is why Admiral does ride-alongs for potential hires. He needs to find more drivers with clean records and no bad habits. The turn-over for beverage trucking is about 20%. This is not an over-the-road business, so truckers stay with it longer. They make about 15 stops a day. They use electric pallet jacks.
- Amy suggested we do more of these ride-alongs. It is a huge HR problem for the company, but it is valuable for our students.
- Vardis thinks ride-alongs could be integrated into the 1220 class.
- John asked Ed Mizusawa about CGL. They do hazardous waste trucking. Drivers do not touch the load and they unload quickly. They are forklift certified. CGL is having a hard time recruiting. They need 30 over-the-road drivers. Only a 10% turnover. Corporate office is here. They ask for 6 months of experience and will start to provide an on-road trainer for new hires. Hauling hazardous materials is another issue, and the training for that is expensive. Fines for non-compliance are steep. Vardis says that our Class A training adheres to the PTDI requirements for certification. Our students get more than the required number of hours of training.
- Parent company of CGL is Rinchem. They haul hazmats – a lot of material from Intel, hydrogen peroxide. Drivers need tanker endorsement. CGL will haul almost anything except food.
- Diana Lucero discussed our Job Connection Center. The contact is Rhonda Ross, rross14@cnm.edu, phone (505) 224-3077. We are trying to get all of our students to register with the JCC, so they can receive immediate notification about new job postings. Posting a job is free. Registering is a big problem for some students, because they don't like to use computers, especially older students. All agree, computer use is imperative nowadays.
- Edi Johansen says that her company hires CDLs and non-CDLs. They haul hazmats, pharmaceuticals, and controlled substances; conduct random drug tests, which not all drivers pass. They hire class B also. (We graduated eight class B students.)
- We don't have information on how many of our graduates stay in NM for work. Most grads want to stay.
- Vardis would like to see more industry people come in to the classes to talk about what they do. Students get inspired whenever they hear first-hand information from the industry, and it is a reality check for them too. We would like to host dispatchers and operations people too. Middle of the 1220 class would be best for industry visits. Keith would like to be involved with industry visits. We are still working on the ride-alongs.
- Vardis says April 27 and May 1 is when all the students will be coming together for testing, and we would like to have industry come in at that time to speak with students. April 27, ATC 108 will be reserved for this purpose (Jennifer W. will reserve the room). The time is 12:00 on both days. Keith will send a driver to us and CGL and DMC will come to talk also.
- Students need to be more computer literate.
- LinkedIn and Facebook are good ways to keep students informed about the industry and for posting new jobs.

V. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 1:30. The next meeting will be in the Fall and include the Diesel Technology program.