

Santa Rosa Welding Technology

Advisory Committee Minutes

Spring Semester

March 8, 2024, 4:00 -5:30pm

Meeting Minutes

- **Call Meeting to Order-**
- Members Present
 - Luis Lara, Nate Williams, Dave Cass, Joel Lopes
 - Benjamin Goldstein, Jesse Kosten, Danny Aschwanden, Tom Gutsch
 - Guests- Rachel Smith, Megan Rhodes

Was there an Advisory Quorum- YES

- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **Previous meeting minutes approved.**
- **Announcements**
 - New Full -Time Faculty Introduction – Tom Gutch is the new full-time Welding Instructor.
 - North Coast Agriculture Partnership (NCAP) Welding Contest Saturday, April 6th, 8:00 am- 1:00 pm in the SRJC Welding shop. Judge volunteers needed to score welds, judge portfolios, or administer the written test.
 - ITT is hosting a job fair on April 24, 2024, from 11 am -1:30 pm, in the SRJC Lounibos compound. Advisory members are welcome to participate.
 - Megan Rhodes is a Job Developer in the Career Hub, who manages the Learning-Aligned Employment Program (LAEP). LAEP is designed to get students paid internships related to their field of study. It's a California Work Study program designed to get eligible students paid work experience in industries related to their fields of study. Participating employers are reimbursed a portion of the student's gross wages. For-profit employers receive 50% and non-profits receive 90% of the wages reimbursed. This is a great opportunity for employees to get extra help in their shops
 - Enrollment Updates and Fall Courses – Currently offering 14 welding sections. Welding enrollment is at 108% capacity. This semester there were two courses in thermal cutting offered. Next semester WELD will offer two sections of the tig course. WELD 170 is a required/recommended course for some Advanced Manufacturing Technology and Advanced Transportation & Logistics courses.
 - Welding currently has 2 full-time and 3 associate faculty members.
- **Unfinished Committee Business**
 - Certification Day for SRJC Students - AWS certifications for SMAW and FCAW were discussed. Specifically, SMAW D1.1 limited thickness plate in the vertical up position. FCAW would be unlimited thickness for dual shield and self-shielding wire. Industry members would help prep and administer the certification tests. Industry would like the certification tests to reflect what is currently used in their shops. Industry believes that these certifications will help students with obtaining employment. This event would be offered to the welding students through a signup process.
- **New Business/Discussion**
 - SWP/Perkins Grant- – Grant requesters now complete a Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA). Career Education has to go through CLNA every two years to remain eligible for Perkins Funding. This new process involves reviewing several elements, including student performance data, program quality, labor market needs, educator development, and

special populations' access to programs. The goal of the assessment is to help identify, understand, and prioritize the needs to help improve program performance.

- Grant request- For the next cycle of Grant requests, Danny would like to request an orbital welding machine. Industry believe that an orbital welding machine is a specialized equipment that isn't used in most welding shops, and wouldn't be beneficial to the program.
- Danny and Tom have discussed the possibility of a summer short course called Women in Welding that would be offered to female high school students. This would give them the opportunity to come in and learn more about the industry in a less intimidating atmosphere.
- Professional Development opportunities- Danny and Tom would attend like to the FabTech Tradeshow, and pursue an AWS Certified Weld Educator and other ASW courses/certification tests.
- The Advisory Committee needs to assign a Committee Chair for Next Year.

- **Updates**

Industry-

- Abourne Steel is pretty busy right now, with lots of jobs popping up. Some of their current employees have gone through the Welding Program. Abourne will be looking to hire five new employees. SR Stainless- Business slowed way down at the end of 2023, but business picked back up in January and have a lot of work at this time. Being a Union shop, they have a harder time finding qualified employees. Moose Boats is busy right now. At this time they need mechanics.

Department/Program Updates –

- Welding Overhang Project- We ran into issues on the overhang project and for now will try and have Facilities do some basic repairs.
- Cost of material is way up - The program really appreciates all of the donated material.
- There was a meeting with Local 38 Plumbers and Pipefitters. They were really impressed with the welding program, and would like to offer a direct entry apprenticeship to one or two of the welding students.
- In January Dr. Garcia toured the Welding shop. There was a discussion on ways to bring in more diverse young people. One of the possibilities mentioned was a Summer Trades Academy for Summer 2025.
- Welding just got a new laser rust remover equipment, a new shear for thinner gage material, and three new dynasties.
- Next meeting date- TBA Advisory meetings can be held at offsite locations. It is preferred that meetings are held at industry locations. Advisory meetings should be industry guided and not ran by SRJC faculty.

- **Adjourn**