

Business Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Trade and Industry- Welding

October 24, 2016

6:00 PM

ETA101

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- ITEM 1. *Welcome*
- ITEM 2. **Welding Program Updates**
- *Currently 25 students in cohort*
 - *Will graduate 12 in December; It was suggested that we set up mentorships prior to graduation to help with expectations in the workplace.*
 - *Thank you to WSInc. For scholarship- 2 students were able to benefit*
- ITEM 3. **Welding Curriculum Changes**
- *Clock hours reduced to 1,050; pipe welding is separate cohort and exploring options to create separate curriculum.*
- ITEM 4 **AWS ATF Grand Opening**
- *Had grand opening on Sept. 29th. Able to offer certified welders through AWS ATF at reduced rate until March 2017 appx. \$450; look on website for info. Will email PDF flyer to all partners and need to get the word out in the community regarding classes.*
- ITEM 5 **Evening Welding Program**
- *ATF support outreach; we need assistance to spread the word about ATF and would like if your business can put up a flyer or tell clients about the ATF certifications and classes.*
 - *¾ evening program extension ideas- Most businesses work a 7-3:30pm schedule in South Florida. It was suggested that we utilize one weekend day for classes and a Monday through Thursday model 4 or 4:30pm to 9:00pm to reduce time in program.*
- ITEM 6. **NCCER re-accreditation**
- *Reaccreditation this year, will be reaching out to businesses for assistance.*
- OTHER. Lively discussion ensued on a mentorship/apprentice aspect to program where students are exposed to real live work conditions prior to graduation. This will allow them to gain a better understanding on expectations for working in field. This will also allow students to ask questions and be exposed in different aspects of welding. "A "Stick" person is a very different person who would work with "TIG" processing." Increasing field trips, offering half day shadowing opportunities with different businesses, with different techniques will allow for exposure.
- Another topic that was brought up was soft skills/employability. Employers are asking that students have more soft skills. Program needs to stress punctuality, proper attendance expectations, discuss being drug free, attitude, and ethical behavior on worksites etc. Being able to pass drug test is extremely important and needs to be stressed from beginning of program. Since welding can be dangerous due to heavy equipment and working conditions, stressing that being drug free is extremely important.

Attendance

Katherine Bonner Brooke Knight Scott Antonius Lynnmarie Highsmith