



WELD -MINUTES
May 7, 2025, at 5:00 PM
AA2 Room 105

Members Present: Eric Teel, Purchasing Agent, Wickum Weld; Tyler Fay, Weld Program Manager, Thompson Metal Fab; Logan King, Prefabrication Supervisor, Reconcraft; Andrew Fellows, Weekend Supervisor, Reconcraft; Tyler Accord, Fabrication Supervisor/Hiring Manager, Reconcraft; Nolan Valenter, Project Manager, Red Dog Fabrication LLC

Guests:

Members Absent: Kale Park (Co-Chair), Project Manager, Columbia Steel Services, Inc; Mark Stanley (Co-Chair), Manufacturing Manager, Columbia Machine; Justin Bafus, Assistant Program Manager, County Industrial; Dale Lindsay, Branch Manager, Madden Industrial; Connor Lenhart, Welding Process Specialist, Airgas; Jason Petersen, Welder/Fitter, Vigor Industrial PDX (Boilermaker Local 104)

Clark College: Brian McVay, Department Chair, Clark College; Theo Koupelis, Dean of WPTE & STEM, Clark College; Chad Laughlin, Instructor, Clark College; Paul Sibley, Instructor, Clark College; Kathy Chennault, Director of Development, Corporate & Foundation Relations, Clark College Foundations; Wende Fisher, Academic Advisor, Clark College; Alex Kison, Workforce and Student Engagement, Clark College; Gloria Rudzinski, Instructor, Clark College; Wade Hausinger, Instructor, Clark College; Justin Stokes, Associate Director of Development and Partner Engagement, Clark College Foundation; Matt Grosz, Instructor, Clark College

The meeting began at 5:06 PM, and a quorum was met.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will meet next on November 5, 2025.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting on November 6, 2024, were approved.

WEEKEND COHORT UPDATES

Brian discussed the program's partnership with Reconcraft, located in Clackamas, Oregon. The program has three students who are employed at Recon.

Brian announced that the program opened a variety of class times including morning, noon, night, and weekend classes. The weekend classes are going to be open every other year.

Brian discussed the current class availability for students. The program has additional room to conduct more classes but currently the program is seeking an instructor.

Brian discussed Gloria's participation from a class tech to a full-time instructor.

Brian shared that the program hired Matt Grosz, an additional instructional tech. Brian highlighted Matt's support with equipment clean up and organization.

Brian discussed the aim of streamlining processes within the program.

Brian shared that the program is preparing for an upcoming audit with Labor and Industries and welcomed committee members to reach out if they have any questions about the process.

NEW EQUIPMENT

Brian shared that the program was able to purchase a variety of new equipment through Perkins funding.

Brian shared the committee images of the program's new equipment and highlighted the replacement of the oxy-fuel manifold system in the grinding room.

- Additionally, two additional Miller Multiprocess XMT 350 welders (Jan 2025, total cost \$12,985.61)
- Perkins grant purchased two Miller Multiprocess XMT 350 welders (March 2025, total cost \$13,035.76)
- Perkins grant purchased two Aluminum feed pistol pro guns (April 2025, total cost \$7,919.59)

The program built nine work tables that they fabricated and built completely. The program has a total of fifteen burning stations. The program is hoping to get power running along the wall to place plasma cutters under working stations.

Brian discussed funding cuts with recent state changes.

Brian shared images of the new workstations with the committee.

Brian shared that in collaboration with Wade, they have been working with Airgas to eliminate bottles and have allowed for a decrease in costs.

Eric asked if bulk gases were set up.

Brian responded yes and welcomed committee members to preview the building.

Brian shared that the program has not conducted an open house this term and is considering doing a summer open house.

Brian shared that the program conducted a mock pressure vessel and shared photos of the two pressure vessels. One of Wade's classes also conducted a mock pressure vessel. Brian shared that the classes have fabricated the pressure vessels and shared positive outcomes. The program aims to run the classes to industry standards and demands.

Eric asked how the inside rings are being cut.

Brian discussed that the rings are being burned since the program does not have the machine for cutting.

Brian discussed the challenges with the poor welding and the student progress. The program pushes the students pressure vessel project and welding projects. Additionally, the program efforts to change to aluminum education at the beginning of the course based on student feedback.

Brian discussed the course boat project, initial plan, contract, and changes to the boat project. The program was able to opt out of the contract, the boat is completed, and the program plans to sell it. The program could resell for around 1200 to 2000 per boat.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Brian shared that there are 63 full-time students.

Tyler inquired if students write identifications on their welds.

Brian discussed educating students on industry demands, such as stamps and MTRs.

Tyler noted that certain projects require light stamping; however, his company uses a paint marker on most projects.

Brian shared discussions with various employers, and there is a demand for aluminum welders. The program cannot oversee a non-credit program and discussed concerns with a non-credit program.

Brian is interested in separating aluminum and carbon welding, creating a CA (Certificate of Achievement). The program is collaborating with Theo and Wende on students participating in the welding program and how that process will work.

Brian would like to form a round table to discuss the aluminum class discussion, so the group can be a supportive forum for further support of the program.

Kathy asked about industry certification.

Brian discussed that the program would need a wrap-around to conduct testing, and currently, the program has not had the need or call for aluminum testing.

Tyler noted that the program may not need a wrap-around to bend aluminum.

D1.2 AWS code was recommended as a wrap-around, and steel, stainless, and aluminum knowledge would appeal to employers.

Nolan shared that there is 10% of aluminum work in his shop. Additionally, only one or two people are knowledgeable about it.

Logan is in favor of an accredited course as it expands student knowledge for the workforce.

Tyler shared the increase in weekend shifts, and they are currently seeking more welders.

Additionally, there is a demand for aluminum.

Tyler is concerned with retirement, and the industry will need to replenish the fabricators.

Tyler discussed that the need for weekend shift employment may increase, depending on the company.

Brian discussed sustaining partners if the program is going to develop through participation, ideas, donations, or skillsets.

Brian discussed getting Miller and Lincoln on board for the aluminum round table.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores