

Spring 2019 Program Advisory Committee Minutes

Program: Advanced Manufacturing

Date: 4/2/19

Members Present:

Jack Frazier and Dave Bailin, teachers at Essex Tech

Bob Ring, Chesterton

Nick Vlismas and Costas Vlismas, PV Engineering

Paul Hoff, Crystal Engineering and CNC instructor at Essex Tech

Bill Marnik, Advisory Board Leader and “Night Hawks” instructor

Program Facilitator: Bill Marnik

Committee Chair: Bill Marnik

Subject: Senior Portfolio Reviews

Discussion:

The Essex Tech Senior Portfolio Reviews are scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd at 8 AM. Volunteers are needed to staff the Review Panel for this event. The Panel will witness student presentations, ask questions and offer feedback as needed, and grade the presentations. This event promises to be a great chance for Panel Volunteers to witness high school seniors as they record their accomplishments for the world beyond high school

Subject Review of CVTE Programmatic Review:

Discussion:

The Advisory Board reviewed the survey it did of the Advanced Manufacturing Shop in October 2018, and the following positive results were identified:

- The new Waterjet Machine has been examined for improvements that need to be made before it goes on-line. An Air Filtration system and a Water Filtration system need to be installed. The Waterjet Machine Manufacturer has provided input, and the improvements are targeted for Summer 2019.
- Other minor items identified in the survey were corrected, relating to student safety and order in the Shop.

Subject: Student Co-Op and Placement Findings

Discussion:

Jack Frazier reported that virtually all of the students eligible for Co-op opportunities have been placed in positions at local businesses. This good news reflects the strong preparation the students have received in class, the pressing need for workers in the Advanced Manufacturing world, and the great work Lisa Berube has done in her role as Co-Op Placement Leader.

Both PV Engineering and Chesterton Co., attending the meeting, are very interested in hosting Co-op students in the 2019-2020 academic year. At one point, Lisa stepped into the Board Meeting to say hello. She was able to speak directly to Bob Ring and the Vlismas brothers, and they exchanged contact information. The plan is that they will stay in contact with each other to communicate and match openings with eligible students if possible.

Subject: Review of the Student Experience at Essex Tech

Discussion:

Jack Frazier discussed the overall plan for students during their four-year experience at Essex Tech. This information was valuable for the new members of the Advisory Board. In brief, early in the Freshman year, students go through an exploratory program where they are trained in a variety of vocational areas. This experience gives them an awareness of all the options that they face as they choose a vocational pathway. After the exploratory program, student interest is weighed against skill level, and the students are assigned to a particular vocational pathway. The Freshman students finish their school year in their new career choice.

In the Sophomore year, the students gain academic and hands-on training to advance their knowledge and skill levels.

In the Junior and Senior years, based on their individual progress and talents, the students are placed in paid and unpaid Co-op positions. The off-site Co-op work combines with continued classroom training in traditional high school subjects to produce students with the variety of skills and education they will need in the world beyond high school.

In Advanced Manufacturing, all students learn to run manual machines, program and run CNC machines, and receive a variety of certifications (NIMS, Osha) that are valuable in the world of Advanced Manufacturing. As a result, they are well-prepared to match the challenges ahead.

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The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.