

Diesel Program Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:00 P.M.

- **Community Attendees:**

Steve Burch, Missouri River Contractors
Dave Gardner , MTS Freight
Mike Holiday, Tri-state Truck and Equipment
Ryan Rouns, R and K Trucking
Travis Sandau, I-State Trucking
Ty Harrington, J and D Truck Repair
Will Almos – J and D Truck Repair

Helena College Attendees:

Derrick Hauer, Diesel Instructor
Rick Purcell, Diesel Instructor
Sandra Bauman, Dean/CEO
Stephanie Hunthausen, Executive Director of Career Technical Education
Kathy Mortimore, Skilled Trades Advisor
Melissa Mousel, Administrative Assistant-CTE
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- **Curriculum and Program Review**

- See attached Academic Pathways
 - writing and communication classes are combining into one class to focus on resumes, interviews, communication in workplace.
 - CDL is still an elective. It is recommended to require a CDL so that they can test drive the trucks they are working on. Some may not want it and we don't want to deter students from going for their AAS.
- Discussion of possible Auto/Diesel Combination two year program
 - take 1st year auto and 2nd year diesel. 1st year auto is closely aligned to 1st year diesel.
 - there is a concern that it would dilute the Diesel program and that the students may lean toward auto dealerships rather than work for large truck shops. Also they are currently coming out with the min and then they get more training during employment.
 - Diesel is looking at partnering with MSP to mirror the auto partnerships.
- Electric large rigs are coming down the pike. Helena College will need classes to cover the skill set to work on these vehicles.

- Student opportunity to earn ASE certifications? What are the Pros/Cons?
 - This is offered by employees and many do not opt to follow through with the testing, even tho it would mean a pay raise.

- Equipment and Facilities Update
 - What equipment do we need to purchase to keep up with the industry needs?
 - automotive transmissions is most popular, manual transmissions are going away

- Recruitment
 - Hosted Job Skills USA March 29-30
 - Ran Diesel Equipment Tech competition
 - Skilled Trades Career Fair April 5th – 20 vendors
 - Film crew coming in Week of April 10th to highlight Diesel and Machining programs in advertisements.
 - Job shadowing of high school students in the trades classrooms/labs
 - Dual Enrollment classes to take the core classes while still in high school
 - Admissions counselors facilitate high school tours
 - Have employees participate in Manufacturing and Mechanics night
 - May have counselors work closer with industry partners to know the benefits of Diesel mechanics.
 - In Billings all 4 high school the recruiters and career counselors are hand picking students for Build MT class to job shadow 2 /week. They do OSHA 10 training, and modules, tours, etc. Build MT –John Herd started it. They are trying to get a full time state recruiter. –problem is that they are going straight to work after HS, not college. Some employees may be willing to help pay for higher education tuition.

- Staff Development
 - OSHA 10 Trainer and NC3 Training completed by Derrick

- Open Discussion
 - electrical trucks are coming. Need the electrical grids in place.