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*Helena College Mission:*

*Helena College supports our diverse community by providing the paths and tools necessary to assist learners in achieving their educational and career goals.*

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## **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

### **Metals Technology Advisory Board**

**November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 1:30 PM, RM 106 (Welding Classroom)**

#### **I. Attendees**

John McLaughlin - Manual Machining/ Metals Technology  
Cody Torres - Welding Technology/ Metals Technology  
Stephanie Hunthausen - Executive Director of Career Technical Education & Dual Enrollment  
Melissa Mousel - Administrative Associate IV -Career Technical Education  
Sandra Bauman- Dean/CEO  
Kathy Mortimore – Trades Retention Specialist/Career Coordinator  
Wyatt Black – Montana Fabrication, Helena College Student  
Elon Moffett – Helena College alumni  
Yowell Moffett – Helena College student

#### **II. Program/Department Updates**

As interest in the Metals Technology A.A.S. has increased, Helena College acknowledges that it is time that the program received some specific attention. To that end, this advisory board is newly created and this meeting serves as the very first advisory board meeting for the Metals Technology program.

**Machining-** 3 new manual vertical milling machines are now up and running. One more Vertical milling machine is ordered and will be used next semester.

**Welding-** Through our partnerships with Miller Electric we have obtained 4 of their newest technology in industrial welding machines. They are Delta Weld Machines with the FieldPro

Feeders that are capable of Pulse Welding along with RMD features. Each machine is worth about \$32,000.

AWG installed a new manifold system over a year ago it is a plug and go system which makes it easier for students to switch to different gasses.

**2022-2023 Enrollment increased:**

**First Year Machining**

Fall 2022: 9 first year students

Fall 2023: 13 first year students

**First Year Welding**

Fall 2022: 14 Students

Fall 2023: 15 Students

- Communication has improved by working with Kathy Mortimore, Academic Advisor, to sequence between the welding and machining courses. This ensures that students have declared the correct major and are getting assessed the correct course and program fees. It has also helped in making sure that students apply for their CAS in the respective program and are completing those degrees they move through the Metals Technology course work.

**III. Topics for Discussion**

**Student Performance:**

- What do you as our recent graduates seem to struggle with most?
  - The fundamentals of how to set up wire welders
- Skills taught that are useful in their current jobs:
  - What is taught in machining helps to know how to drill and think through processes? These skills also allow for graduates to look at items and know how they are put together.
  - What is taught in welding gives knowledge and understanding of the metals process.
- Have you identified any gaps in the knowledge or training? If so, can you please expand on the identified gaps?

-We only teach Miller...not Lincoln or other brands...there are differences between the machines.

-Ban saw usage, basic fabrication skills.

### **Student Preparation:**

- What non-technical (soft skills, 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, employability skills, etc.) are most important for the workforce?

-Work ethic

-Being on time

-Work hard

-AutoCAD is very useful

-Knowing how to search the internet

-Talking with customers

-Resume writing

-How to be professional with customers

- Are any changes needed in our curriculum or program offerings? If so, what do you suggest?

-None were suggested.

- Do you feel prepared to go into the workforce?

-Yes.

-Having a job while you're in school is helpful.

- Please rate your satisfaction with your education.

-All are happy with their experience.

### **Upcoming needs:**

- How can we better partner/collaborate with employers?

-Machining has partnerships with Boeing and Pioneer.

-During Covid the welding visits were phased out. Pipe fitters and iron workers and boiler makers used to visit.

-The lack of pay differences between what a person can make in the fast food industry and trades employments continue to be an issue.

- Ash Grove hires Helena College welding students

- How can we advertise for/recruit new employers? How can we connect employers with our students?
  - Get them jobs (internships while they are in school)

**Other:**

- Are there other people or employers you would recommend for this advisory board?
  - Possible alumni outside of the Helena Area and other names were provided. We will follow up with these people.
- What ideas do you have for recruiting new students?
  - Skills USA -The exposure that it gives trades from around the state. Wyatt got a scholarship to come here.
  - Proximity to home is a benefit for many.