

2011-2012

Committee Annual Report

Committee Name: Vernon College Machining Advisory Committee

Chairperson: Scotty Francisco

List of members:

David Kulbeth	Owner	Kalco Machine and Manufacturing
Eric Michaeli	Plant Manager	Wichita Clutch
Scotty Francisco	Supervisor	Wichita Clutch
Mark McMillan	Owner	Production Machine
Gary Land	Supervisor	Sharp Iron
Michael Thompson	General Manager	Arrow Manufacturing Products
Kitty Howard	Deputy Director	Workforce Solutions North Texas

Dates of meetings: 11-17-2011; update letter to Advisory Committee 7/24/2012

Accomplishments: The committee reviewed and approved the project objectives and competencies with no changes this year. The committee discussed the merits of having a generic associate degree that would take the machining courses; they decided to wait for more detailed information is available before voting on the plan. Several members expressed they are very pleased with the skills and work ethics of the program completers they have hired.

Recommendations: The members agreed that field trips for students to see the various machining operations in the region would be helpful.

Membership suggestions: Make up of the committee should reflect the racial/ethnicity demographics of the region.

Agendas, exhibits and minutes posted to Vernon College web site address: Advisory Committee meeting agenda and minutes; spring 2012 update letter to Advisory Committee members.

Submitted by: Chris Smith

Date submitted: 8/3/2012



July 24, 2012

Gentlemen,

I'm quite late with this letter as I was expected to update you with the events happening in the late part of the spring semester. Well, here it is late in the summer and I am finally getting this letter out to you all. Let me then give you a brief summary as to the latest happenings here at Skills.

I am pleased to announce to you that we had a total of five graduates by the end of the fall semester of 2011 and are expecting to have four additional graduates by the end of the fall semester 2012. Here are their names in case you are in need of any additional employees; call me and I will have them contact you. I might remind you that many of these graduates have found employment already.

The fall 2011 graduates are as follows:

- Jerry Brock
- Nick Caudle
- Tyler Crump
- Alfred Ramsey
- Mike Stearns

I know that many of them are now employed by some of you, and for that I am grateful! It is my hope that you benefit greatly by their hard work as they are certainly willing to give it.

There continue to be many changes to the goals and objectives of this program. If you remember, the last time we met for our last advisory meeting you were asked to fill out a form that listed major competencies that would be used as a guideline for the content of education and training given to the students throughout this program. Our efforts to include these competencies has forced us to make many changes so that we can better assess our students and base our instruction on course outcomes that can be documented and critically analyzed. This has given us a better way to assess student learning based on given benchmarks and also gives us the ability to streamline each course so that the content of each course transitions seamlessly from one course to the next.

Mark Holcomb and Sharon Winn have continued to work on the degree plan that we talked about in our last meeting which includes additional courses in industrial automation. We are expecting to see this implemented by the 2013 fall semester. Since then I have been taking the required courses as they have been offered to meet the requirements of that degree plan.

We now have a new classroom dedicated to the machining program complete with new desks and computers. Our older computers were limited in video capabilities that kept us from

upgrading from MastercamX2, so when the new machines were installed we were able to upgrade to MastercamX3, which may not be that much different from X2 but it gives us more to select from when choosing textbook training tutorials.

Since we no longer have our computer lab in the main lab, we were able to acquire a CNC Plasma cutter to occupy the open space; hopefully, this will be an attraction to those who are in the welding program so that we might gain more student interest in CNC.

I had planned to spend time at Kalco Machine to study under David Kulbeth's programmer. Seems that other responsibilities have kept me from making outside commitments, at least for the present time; however, I have purchased advanced Mastercam training courses to keep up with my need for further education. These have proven beneficial to me and might actually provide enough instruction to allow me to create tutorials of my own that will break away from the introductory 2D programming methods that we are presently providing our students.

Recruitment is actually getting stronger than last reported. The loss of Tech Prep had put a halt on student tours only for a short time. I was impressed by the amount of people that realized the benefits of allowing the students to tour the facility and who actively volunteered their time to help coordinate such events. In my opinion there is no other way to show the machining trade any better than to invite several schools to tour the school so that the students can see what our program is all about.

I'll be contacting each one of you at the beginning of the fall semester to inform you of our next meeting date.

As always, thank you for your support of this program.

Sincerely,
Chris Smith
Machining Instructor
Skills Training Center