

## POWERLINE PROGRAMS

### Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 27, 2021  
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The Powerline Programs Advisory Committee for Minnesota West Community and Technical College met October 27, 2021. Those members in attendance include Brian Binnebose, Doug Schuett, Greg Drent, Brad Carlson, Lincoln Drent, Austin Smith, Lyle Lamote, Mike Willetts, Erik Hamm, Jeff Benson, Troy Blankenhagen, Chad Nelson, Ryan Craig, Dennis Clifford, Eric Stoll, and Judy Tebben.

After touring the campus and the Powerline lab, the committee met at the Pizza Ranch in Jackson for lunch and the business meeting.

The minutes of the 2020-2021 meeting were reviewed and approved.

### AGENDA ITEMS

- Enrollment at Minnesota West increased 2.6%. Other Minnesota State colleges experienced an average 7.1% decrease in enrollment.
  - Jackson campus Powerline numbers continue steady 31 enrolled in first year, six in second year
  - Granite Falls Powerline current enrollment is at nine
- Reviewed the leveraged equipment policy and thanked committee for their continued donations of equipment and scholarship funds
  - Reported that because of industry donations, the Powerline program is purchasing a skid loader with bucket and trencher through leveraged equipment funds.

### Curriculum

- Last year the committee approved changes in the Diploma program eliminating the elective and adding required AUTO 1194 CDL Permit Prep Course
- Last year the committee also approved changes in the AAS program to meet Ness Legislation requirements, moving the AAS total credits to 64
- A waiver was submitted to Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to allow 64 credits. The waiver application was denied.
  - Faculty asked the Advisory Committee for feedback/solutions to the credit waiver denial.
    - The Advisory Committee Members felt strongly that the CDL permit prep course, at a minimum, must be included in the program requirements for both the Diploma and AAS programs.
    - The Advisory Committee suggested that we meet with the other Powerline programs in the state to see if we could come to an agreement on a statewide waiver for up to 64 credits.

- If a consensus cannot be reached with the other two colleges offering the Powerline program, the committee suggested incorporating the permit prep curriculum in existing courses making the permit prep required for graduation.
- The committee also recommended that students be highly encouraged to acquire their CDL license before seeking employment.
- When offered the option to switch to a Diploma program only and eliminating the AAS from the Powerline curriculum, the committee preferred to exhaust all other options before resorting to the elimination of the AAS program.

Powerline Advisory Subcommittee

- Eric, Mike and Lydia will work to organize a subcommittee
  - The focus for the coming year will be recruitment strategies for high school age students

Respectfully submitted,

*Doug Schuett*

