

## **Diesel Advisory Board Meeting Minutes December 1, 2011**

**Members Present:** Bob Raveling, Montevideo Kibble Equipment; Berry Erickson, Pipestone Titan Machinery; Cliff Van Beek, Sioux Falls Interstate Diesel; Todd Martin, Arnolds (Willmar); Morgan Hullinger, RDO Equipment (Sioux Falls); Paul Anderson, Ziegler Inc. (Bloomington).

**Students:** Nathan Girard, Cody Schmidt

**Faculty:** Pete Girard, Lyle Kruse, Rebecca Weber

### **Tour of the Shop's:**

**1. Program Report and Review:** We have 22 students now, seven more for spring semester. Students starting spring semester take first year classes, spring classes the next year fall into second year. Eight students registered for next fall. Numbers are consistent. Pete offered the curriculum to anyone who requests and is open for suggestions. The teaching is generic enough to have the students prepared for the work force. The program does not get into suspension and alignment.

**2. Budget 2011/2012 Supply \$17,650 Resale \$30,000:** Equipment budget is decided within the campus, all programs divide the money. There was a profit in resale last year.

**3. New Equipment Usage:** It was suggested that hydraulic trainers (\$6,000) be used, as is done at other colleges. Students not trained with it have a tendency to just put new parts on rather than understand what is wrong and what will fix it. Rebecca asked if the Wind hydraulic trainers would work, thoughts were they were different. Air brakes systems are hard to teach for Lyle, the trainers aren't too much, looking for ideas. Students going into trucking need the basics. Dennis commented on buying the equipment rather than build your own. This spring semester is the first class with no auto students, it is strictly diesel students. Pete will be spending more time on diagnostics and electronic and will be asking for machinery earlier if possible.

**4. RFP \$30,000 for equipment in program:** \$30,000 is allocated for the whole college, proposals are considered to spend more money with Perkins funding. Cliff mentioned a program, DD15, question would be what to spend the money on. The advisory board a number of years ago decided to bring in equipment rather than Minnesota West buying new equipment; also, sending a technician with the equipment is an asset to the program. Nathan requested newer equipment to learn from, since that is what the dealerships are working more with. Pete and Lyle commented on the importance of hands on for the students, all students see presentation / equipment more than once.

**5. X-travaganza March 15, 2012:** Students started doing the event due to budget cuts; they did it to raise money for the Diesel program. The class has raised \$6,000 in the past. Pete listed a number of things that have been acquired because of the student's hard work. Pete asked for field trip ideas. Todd mentioned SRC, Case Reeman, Missouri. The group usually goes the end of March, the beginning of April.

**6. Graduate placement/location:** Graduation last year was 100%. 16 students – 7 work for dealerships; 7 work for independent shops; 2 are finishing up school. Dealerships notify Pete daily about demand; there is a need for us here.

**7. NOCTI Test results Canby group 68.7 National Average 46.7:** NOCTI tests are given to second year students. The board was given a worksheet on the statistics of the scores.

**8. Other:** Pete shared with the group ideas that have happened over the last year. We have worked with Caterpillar and John Deere. Software for the machinery is a great learning tool, rather than try to keep up with the books. Discussion on Case connection online, Pete asked about CD's or internet for service, it is not available yet. Long-term service will not be paper, it will be computer only.

**9. Comments or questions:** Cody commented that new stuff is beneficial because most people have newer stuff. Not many students this year are from the farm, so that turns out working well for dealerships because the student doesn't go home to work on the farm. A question was if precision was focused on, Pete says he touches on it in the spring because there won't be many things that go out without auto steer or the like. Pete would like the representatives to come in and show the students what is offered. Todd mentioned that the technician needs to know what is wrong with everything without having to call someone out to the job. Information on the DD15 have been touched on, emissions were talked about. 2014 will be bringing in new rules. Rebuilds are becoming a thing of the past, we still need to learn it, but technology is up and coming. Students need to understand why something needs to be fixed, not so much how it is fixed. Most things are sent off to get fixed, but the student needs to know the steps to why or why it doesn't work.

Dennis says Minnesota West is in the upper 25% of colleges. But, things are not going to get easier. Rebecca asked the students why they came to Minnesota West; word of mouth was the reason for both. A board member said when he came here it was because he heard about it from a board member. Students don't have Industrial Arts in high school anymore, so they are being lost in the crowd. Machinery is bigger, newer, and students need to get hands on experience. Todd asked the students what the students were looking for in an employer. The response was what they have to offer, benefits, what the shop looks like, and after school education. Continuous training is a must. Independent mechanics are missing out because they aren't getting the new information continuously.

The meeting was then adjourned.