



## Manufacturing & Product Development Industry Sector Employer Advisory Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2015

**Introduction:** Mr. Villamor called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. Personal introductions were made with the following present:

**Voting Members:** Scott Guthrie Account Manager, Airgas USA, LLC  
Shawn Whittler Owner/General Manager, New Castle Farms, LLC

**Non-Voting Members:** Susan Villon Counselor, Brawley Union High School  
Enrique Cruz Teacher, Calipatria High School  
Frank Cervantes Teacher, Brawley Union High School  
Philip Villamor Director of Education, Imperial Valley ROP  
Roman Flores Guidance Technician, Imperial Valley ROP

**Purpose of the meeting:** Mr. Villamor announced the purpose of the meeting was for industries to give their input on career relevant courses in this particular industry sector as well as acquire business partners' input regarding the state of their line of work as it could relate to updates on curriculum, materials and other possible changes in their field.

**Minutes Review and Approval:** Attendees reviewed the previous meeting minutes held on November 5, 2014. The meeting notes could not be officially approved as there are not the same members who were present for the previous meeting.

### Review of Industry Sector & Pathway Analysis:

**Pathway Course Preview/Discussion:** Mr. Villamor reviewed pathways and articulation information with Imperial Valley College and local high schools. Mr. Cervantes described the welding classes and indicated that Brawley Union High School has an Introduction to Welding class for sophomore and junior high school students and a Welding class for advanced juniors and high school seniors. Mr. Cervantes spoke about wanting to develop a third course offering for Fabrication in order to enable students to be more career ready. Mr. Cervantes and Mr. Whittler spoke about the differences in rigor between welding classes of the past and today's classes.

**Business/Industry Sector Synopsis:** Mr. Whittler said there have been many changes and advances in technology regarding welding equipment in approximately the last 10 years. Mr. Whittler's company has not been able to employ any locally trained welders in the last 10 years. Mr. Whittler mentioned that all his hires are locals but received training while employed elsewhere before having the experience he needs in a welder. He emphasized that it's not that they're not getting good training, but it's that they need to go in a completely different direction. Mr. Whittler indicated that no local employer needs someone specialized solely in welding, but that employers need someone who can weld, fabricate and fit. Mr. Whittler said this holds true in geothermal, agriculture, the gold mine, Plaster City and all the main places of employment in the Imperial Valley. Mr. Whittler said that CTE classes should spend more time on what happens to metal when it's being welded in addition to just *how* it's welded, i.e., students need to learn how to work in the field when the materials or conditions change in order to complete the project(s). Mr. Whittler said he is doing his own welding/fabricating right now because he has not been able to find someone that he can train. Mr. Whittler also mentioned that students need to know that working as a welder is not easy and he explained the physical toll it can take on one's body and accidents that can happen.

Mr. Whittler also noted that he would be willing to speak in CTE classes to welding students. Mr. Whittler advised to not let students get comfortable with Metal Inert Gas (MIG) welding. He added that if a student can weld stick, they can weld

anything else although most of the welding he does in the field is dual-shield because of the speed it enables him to have on the job. Mr. Whittler also spoke about how teachers showcasing student work in class/year-round helped him and his fellow students have healthy competitions against each other to have the best products hanging in the classroom and allow the student to be perfectionists. Mr. Whittler also said he does machining in the field but machining is something that students can learn on the job.

**Competency / Assessment discussions:** Mr. Villamor spoke about welding certification and the possibility of it becoming a regular part of CTE classes. Mr. Cruz said some of his adult students received certification last year through an inspector after these adult students provided their own funds for the testing. Mr. Cervantes said he also taught some adult students during a summer workforce development course at Imperial Valley College who also received certification through the college program and an inspector. Mr. Cervantes and Mr. Whittler spoke about employers wanting certified employees who do not have a lot of experience as they are easier to train in the company's own way of working.

Mr. Villamor presented an outline of Mr. Cervantes' Intro to Welding course. Mr. Cervantes said the Introduction to Welding class does not do Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG) or pipe welding as they currently do not have the equipment to do so. Mr. Cervantes spoke about continuing the trend of calling inspectors through the American Welding Society (AWS) Schools Excelling Through National Skills Education (SENSE) Program to test advanced welding students who are prepared to test for certifications. Advanced students will also continue learning safety training, flux-core, out-of-position oxy-fuel welding as well as TIG and fabrication. Advanced students also work with stainless steel, aluminum and carbon steel towards the end of the year. Mr. Cervantes said that fabrication is touched in their final semester, but it is not something that is a class focus. Mr. Whittler concurred that a concentration on fabrication may be "too much" for high-school aged students. Currently Mr. Cervantes has 20 students in his advanced welding class. Mr. Cruz said he teaches competencies such as measuring, safety, cutting, metal-arc welding, overlapping, horizontal and vertical. Students do not use MIG welding until their second year. Mr. Cruz also emphasizes that students do not continue on the next step until they are competent on the previous lesson.

**Articulation:** Mr. Villamor spoke about the articulation process with Imperial Valley College and Imperial Valley high schools.

**Motion to Continue CTE Industry Sector / Pathway(s):** Mr. Guthrie motioned to continue the CTE Industry Sector/Pathway, Mr. Whittler seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

**IV Career Readiness Certificate (IVCRC) and American College Testing (ACT) National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC):** Mr. Villamor explained what the IVCRC course and the ACT NCRC certification are to those present and highlighted the importance it may have for students as having a nationally recognized certificate lends credibility to the students' abilities. Mr. Villamor explained about the NCRC/KeyTrain program and that it is currently the Guidance Technician's priority to get CTE students to complete the pre-tests. Mr. Villamor explained the IV Career Readiness Certificate is in addition to the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate. Mr. Villamor announced that Guidance Technicians are working towards completing both of these certificates with students Valley-wide.

**Upcoming CTE Events:** Mr. Villamor announced the following events: 1) Discussion about the upcoming Welding and Agriculture Skills Competition in Spring 2016; 2) IVROP Showcase and Recognition Ceremony scheduled for April 19, 2016; 3) IVROP Dancing with the Stars Gala in Spring 2016.

**Adjournment / Next Annual Meeting:** The next meeting will be held in the fall of 2016. The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Villamor at 6:40 pm.