

Administrative Response to Program Review Welding Program November 2015

On November 13, 2015, the Welding SAC presented their Program Review findings to an audience of PCC administrators and others with an interest in the discipline. Both the written report and the presentation were informative and thought provoking. Your presentation provided an opportunity for engagement with those in attendance through an informative and interactive dialogue.

This Administrative Response will: A) note particular highlights of the Welding Program and Program Review; B) observations/recommendations/kudos; and C) provide the administrative response to the SAC recommendations.

Noteworthy Efforts or Achievements

- Providing the Open Entry/Open Exit model of offering classes ensuring students are able to attend full-time or part-time and take the classes needed to complete their training.
- Rewriting all of the CCOGs to ensure outcomes are attainable.
- Continual improvement in curriculum to ensure it is up to current industry standards.
- The creation of new Career Pathway Certificates to meet the needs of students and to encourage completion.
- A norming session was held to standardize grading for code quality work.
- Dual Credit is supported by the SAC and the PCC faculty hold annual meetings and training sessions with the high school faculty.
- A model for advisory committee participation and industry partner commitment.
- Maintaining the positive partnership with Vigor Industrial to offer welding classes at their facility.
- Five welding faculty now hold a Welding Inspection License offered by the American Welding Society.
- Excellent representation from current and former students at the program review who provided valuable information about the Welding program.
- Securing program materials from Vigor Industrial (e.g., scrap metal) that has reduced program expenses at Swan Island.

Observations/Recommendations/Kudos

- The Welding faculty at both locations, Rock Creek and Swan Island, are committed to providing excellent support to the campus and your community. Examples of their involvement include: offering a free lunch for all Veteran students at Rock Creek; supervising a student in the creation of a new Rock Creek sign at the front of the campus; completion of multiple projects at the Rock Creek Campus and other campuses including

building gates and repairing art work; Beaverton High School bike racks community service project; and an active Facebook page that allows both current and former students to stay connected with the college. At Swan Island, we applaud Mike Rasmussen's participation in the Vigor Industrial Open House tours of the new dry dock. The Swan Island Welding Program also sponsored a weld booth at the Southeast Campus Grand Opening. As part of a community project-based learning activity, Swan Island students welded boat cradles for the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria as a permanent part of the museum's collection.

- In the program review, it would have been helpful if the process used evidence showing that students are meeting outcomes and that this had been described with a bit more detail.

Administrative Response to Welding Recommendations

A. What is the SAC planning to do to improve teaching and learning, student success, and degree or certificate completion?

- Continue to Offer Open Entry/Open Exit Model. *We appreciate the in-depth information provided in the review regarding the benefits of offering classes using this model. Student success and completion is important to all of us at the college.*
- Proposal to Add Third Shift at Swan Island. *Please see response in "B" below.*
- Proposed Degree and Certificate Changes. *We support continuous improvement in curriculum.*
- Proposed Curriculum Changes of 3- to 4-credit Courses. *We support continuous improvement in curriculum.*
- Proposal to Create an Additional Less Than One Year Certificate. *We support the creation of these new certificates that will support student success and completion.*
- Proposed Additional Fabrication Courses. *We appreciate the active advisory committee and their recommendations to ensure our students have the tools they need to be successful in the workplace. We support the development of these additional courses.*

B. What support do you need from the administration in order to carry out your planned improvements?

1. Continue Growing the St. Helens Program. *We are pleased with the growth of the welding program in St. Helens and look forward to additional growth in the future.*
2. Open a Welding Program in Newberg. *We acknowledge your recommendation and appreciate the time involved in advocating for this expansion. At this time, Sylvania administration is considering various options and will continue to engage in exploratory conversations.*
3. Proposal to Add Third Shift at Swan Island. *Thank you for advocating for a third shift at Swan Island in order to accommodate more students. We recognize that in order to expand the offerings at Swan Island an additional full-time faculty will be needed. The creation of new faculty positions are made collaboratively at the district-level and are based on a number of factors, including full-time/part-time ratios in a subject-area versus other disciplines, whether enrollment is increasing or declining, whether additional faculty are needed to maintain a program's viability, external accreditation and/or professional standards, and other considerations. The DOIs acknowledge this recommendation and will pursue options based on input from our industry partners once a meeting can be scheduled. If there are other industry partners that the Welding program faculty think we should approach who support a third shift at Swan Island, please send Craig Kolins and Cheryl Scott their contact information.*
4. Potential Increase of Students Taking Welding Classes from CTE Programs. *Thank you for letting us know that additional CTE programs are considering adding welding classes to their programs. We recognize that if additional students need to take these courses it could put a strain on the Rock Creek program. We will continue to monitor enrollment trends and consider expanding offerings based upon demand and taking into consideration budget impacts.*
5. Outreach Support Needed to Market Welding to High School Students. *We support the need for additional marketing of the Welding program in the high schools. Please work with the campus Outreach and Orientation Coordinators as well as the Marketing Department for assistance with this recommendation.*

Closing

In closing, we want to again thank the Welding SAC for sharing the results of your program review with us. We enjoyed learning more about the discipline, your successes and plans for the future. We look forward to supporting your on-going work on continuous program improvement.

Administrative Response submitted by Cheryl L. Scott, on behalf of the Deans of Instruction and Dean of Academic Affairs.

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