

CDL Sector Council Meeting

May 18, 2017

Arkansas State University Mid –South

Attendees

- Anita Brackin, **Greater Memphis Chamber**
- John Churchill, **GMAC Workforce**
- Wayne Elliott, **Schneider**
- Nathan Garrett, **TCAT**
- E. J. Gonda, **Mallory Alexander Transport**
- Andy Helms, **TCAT**
- John Hodge, **FedEx**
- Gerald Joyner, **GMAC Workforce**
- Alex Lamm, **ASU Mid- South**
- Marty Lipinski, **University of Memphis**
- Henry Lewis, **WIN**
- Steve Mackey, **Cummins**
- Katherine McClelland, **The Manufacturing Institute**
- Darrin Mellinger, **Cummins**
- Angela Robinson, **WIBEA**
- Pete Selden, **ASU Mid- South**
- Ron Wells, **Southwest Tennessee Comm. College**

Welcome and Introduction

- Council Chair Wayne Elliott (Schneider) introduced himself and welcomed the attendees to the meeting.

ASU Mid- South

- Pete Selden, Associate Vice Chancellor informed the council that ASU was in Phase 1 of a workforce grant that would start a CDL program with a Consortium of community colleges (**Arkansas State**

University Newport, East Arkansas Comm. College, Arkansas Northeast College, and Phillips Comm. College of the University of Arkansas) in the Eastern Arkansas region. He informed those in attendance that he and the other consortium members would be enlisting industry leaders to assist in the upstart of the program.

Commercial Driver's License National Trends and Best Practices

Katherine McClelland of The Manufacturing Institute gave a brief presentation on national trends and best practices. McClelland covered the following:

- Engagement of post-secondary age group
- Effect of an aging workforce
- First-Aid, CPR training
- Low teacher-student ratios
- Connectivity with local workforce board and American Job Centers
- Provisional CDL license to be used to reach employees at a younger age
- Create links to other industries; oil and gas, healthcare, construction

CDL School Partners Overview

Roadmaster, Swift Driving Academy, and Vatterott Career College were unable to attend.

Open Discussion

- Benefits to CDL
- How to make CDL more attractive to millennials
- E.J. Gonda, Vice Chair of the council suggested schools partner with industry and see how to fill the Gap between 18-21. Engage students to enter CDL Class-B field following graduation from high school or to enter Diesel Tech programs.
- The group believed personal testimonies from people within the industry may aid as a recruiting tool.
- Target minority groups: veterans, immigrants, Latinos, and the reentry population

- Mention the technological advances: computers in trucks, changing from manual to automatic transmission.
- The group wholeheartedly agreed that the industry needs a make-over and suggested the following: Make trucking centers more attractive, address major safety concerns, recruit at immigration centers.

WIN Tuition Benefits for CDL Programs

- Tuition assistance for CDL; Up to \$4,000 if student makes under \$15/hour and qualifies for financial aid assistance.
- WIBEA also offers tuition assistance for Arkansas residents.

Next Steps

- John Churchill (GMACW) and Wayne Elliott, Council Chair, thanked the group for convening. Churchill adjourned the meeting.

*Next meeting will be held Tuesday, August 8th @ East High School's T-Stem Academy in Memphis, TN.