

## Mid-South Steel Fabricators Sector Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 21, 2017

Southwest TN Community College

7:30 a.m.

### Meeting Notes

#### Meeting Participants

##### Attendees

##### **Companies**

Crystal Steel-Memphis

- Delmus Woody

GMW, Inc.

- Tim Smith

Keeler Iron Works

- Clay Keeler

Lewis Mechanical Contractors

- Alfred Green

Lincoln Electric

- Josh Jones

Memphis Wire & Iron

- Jim Stafford

Newberry Tanks

- Chris Long

PSI Contractors

- Mike Purifoy

Rees-Memphis

- Andy Cowan

Southern Systems Inc.

- Billy Potts

##### **Staff**

Greater Memphis Alliance for a Competitive Workforce

- John Churchill
- Gerald Joyner
- Laurie Mudd

Greater Memphis Chamber

- Anita Brackin

ARK Farms

- Abby Mauwong

##### **Workforce Resources**

Arkansas State University Mid-South

- Ed Cook
- Belinda Looney
- Pete Seldon

Moore Tech

- John Schmidt

Shelby County Schools

- Deborah Hester
- Carol Miller

Southwest Tennessee Community College

- Willie Burley
- Chris Ezell
- Derck Henson
- Lisa Jones
- Danny Spencer
- Mike Stephens
- Ron Wells

Tennessee College of Applied Technology

- Andy Helms

Workforce Investment Network

- Henry Lewis

##### **Guests**

## **Introduction**

Meeting was called to order by Council Chair Andy Cowan. Dr. Chris Ezell, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Southwest Tennessee Community College, welcomed the council to the campus.

## **Council Welcome and Introductions**

Andy Cowan welcomed the members to Southwest's campus and asked for all in attendance to introduce themselves (name and company/organization)

## **Welding Program Overview**

Danny Spencer, Lead Welding Instructor, gave brief overview of Southwest's welding program.

## **Shelby County Schools Career and Technical Education Strategic Action Initiative**

- The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program serves over 100,000 students.
- 30,000 + High School Students.
- Strategic Initiative to work with business and industry to prepare students for work/labor force. There are five priority areas in which to focus: Advanced Manufacturing, Health Science, TDL, Architecture, Business Information Systems.
- Created "design teams" to review and refine CTE curriculum
- SCS is interested in recruiting Industry to teach CTE courses within the district/programs

## **Partner School Updates**

**ASU Mid-South:** Ed Cook, Lead Instructor (Welding) detailed the "Real World Welding Center" that gives students the opportunity to practice in real world working conditions that they will encounter within the industry. The Fitters Program has been established/started and ASU is in need of one full-time instructor to begin in August 2017 for at least a 10-month appointment. He is working with John Schmidt of Moore Tech on drafting an articulation agreement between the two schools' welding programs.

**Moore Tech:** John Schmidt, Lead Instructor (Welding) informed the council of his students beginning to design prints and his work with Ed Cook on an articulation agreement between Moore Tech and ASU Mid-South.

**TCAT:** Andy Helms, Project Coordinator, left the meeting early and was not in attendance for the College Partner Updates.

**Southwest:** Danny Spencer, Lead Instructor, gave an overview of the program at the beginning of the meeting and a tour of the Welding Program after the meeting was adjourned.

## **ARK Farms**

Abby Mauwong detailed the youth empowerment and welding training in which she and her husband manage on their farm which is located in Eads, Tennessee. It is a rescue farm for

animals and she and her husband train and develop welders to help felons become an important part of the economic and occupational ecosystem of Memphis and the surrounding areas. She briefly spoke to the council asking for their support and advice for training and developing potential industry employees/laborers.

### **Open Discussion**

Andy identified issues within the industry that will be addressed for the next meeting:

1. Work-Based Learning
2. Shop rotation within the council membership
3. Shelby County Schools tours at industry/council companies/shops

Andy Cowan will be in touch with council members concerning the next meeting dates which are tentatively scheduled for either May or June.

Meeting adjourned by Andy Cowan.