

Manufacturing Advisory Board Meeting

Monday 11/6/24 - Minutes

Present: Kurt Kwader and Joshua Levassiar from GS precision. Mike Pickett from HAAS/Trident machinery. Clayton Thompson from RJ Thompson co.

Not present : Jerry Wetherbee AirGas, Molly Holleran American Precision Museum, Brad Clough and Chris Scully HC packaging, Lars Blocher Bradford Machine. Don Venice

Rich Thompson started at 2:30 with a meet and greet. Then went into what we are teaching in Man 1 and 2. Showed off students' projects .

We discussed how Solidworks is going in our Manufacturing 2 class. It was discussed how they will be eligible after completing the class to test so they can earn a possible certification.

Kurt Kwader from GS asked if we have any interest in possibly teaching some of their junior engineers some CAD/CAM software as adult learners. He said they have in the past done this with River valley tech center. Rich told them absolutely we would like to accommodate them in the future and he will discuss with the director . Kurt spoke with Clayton Thompson about the program as he was leaving about what some of the details may look like.

Kurt asked about how the welding program is going. Rich T told him we do not have an instructor this year. Kurt said I thought you were all set ?. Rich said that the instructor from last year did not work out. Kurt offered his lead welder as some some help if we were interested. Kurt was going to forward Rich his contact and send an email to introduce them to one another.

We talked about what the status was with acquiring a 5 axis VMC machining center with a cobart arm. Rich T told them a grant was written this year but was refused . He passed on that we are cautiously optimistic that this may have a positive outcome next grant funding cyle. Both Kurt and Joshua from GS said by far this is probably the most important new learning skill that we should be thinking about. Rich T added that when he was talking to a rep from Beta technology today that this is one thing that the representative from Beta asked if we are currently teaching [5 axis machining] This person told Rich that this is a skill that we are finding that most potential employees do not have, but a skill that we look for and give the candidate priority if they indeed have any experience at all with advanced 5 axis machining.

Mike Pickett added that HAAS still has a UMC available with a cobart arm and a 15% educational discount. Mike also mentioned that Lorraine from HAAS can be an asset in

pursuing grants. Rich T said that is a good idea, I know Lorraine he will reach out to her. He also said that he recently wrote a Gene HAAS educational small grant out but has not heard back.

Kurt said he was impressed how quickly the director jumped on trying to acquire a 5 axis machine and how impressed he was how we take the advisor's board recommendations so seriously.

We talked about other machinery or skills we plan on incorporating in the program in the future. Rich T told them the 2nd half of the year this year we plan on introducing the level 2 students to MasterCam programming. Kurt asked if we had ever considered any EDM training. Rich T told them that we looked into buying a small EDM but the price to introduce this technology was too high. Kurt said that's too bad we just sold a \$125,000.00 EDM machine for 40 K. Rich T told Kurt " this may be something to think about, us being a non profit if you donated any machinery to WRCC you could take that off your taxes " Ultimately he said " that may have more monetary benefit to your company" Kurt said this is something that they can think about. Mike Pickett from HAAS said many times that is what his customers do with their used machinery. Machinery that is still good but they have replaced it for newer machines.

Meeting adjourned at 3:47 Respectfully submitted Rich Thompson