

Plumbing/HVAC advisory board meeting 11/1/2022

In attendance

- Ben York Northern Plumbing ben@northernplumbing.com
- Dave Krogoss Grand Forks Heating dave.gfhtg@midconetwork.com
- Bjarne Vestergaard bjarnemadison@gmail.com
- Ed Krogoss edkrogfoss@stratacorporation.com
- Jason Burris from Vilandre

Meeting started at 4:45 p.m.

Karl started by thanking everyone for coming to the meeting. The turnout for the meeting was not good. There was 5 or 6 people that I contacted that said they would come that didn't, and several that Karl contacted as well.

Talked about the fact that we have Stephanie LeDuc as our new dean.

Talked about the Gastite and Wardflex certifications that we have in spring when we have people come in and give the kids the classes.

Talked about the fact that Karl offers the EPA certification twice a year for the HVAC students.

I talked about the new sewer camera that the plumbing program got last year, taking it over to the house and running it through the sewer so the kids can get a look at it in the real world.

The main topic was the low enrollment that both of our programs are dealing with this year, the lowest enrollment that either of our classes has had at least since I have been here. The group talked about some reasons for it. The fact that such a large amount of the work force is hitting retirement age and the need for fresh workers is so great that if applicants have a heartbeat and no DUI's that they are getting hired right away. The fact that not a lot of young people are looking for such physical jobs is also a part of it. We talked about the fact that we attend recruiting events here in Grand Forks and Fargo. I brought up the fact that Moorhead had moved its plumbing program to online and lab one night in the evenings. Ed asked how you could get all the required lab hours in one night. This semester I have 10 lab hours. The program would have to be restructured. Is that program accredited? Not sure. We talked about the fact that Moorhead has something like 15 students and the NDSCS had something like 13 or so.

The Career Impact Academy was brought up and I really wish that Phil Kraemer had made it to the meeting since he has been involved with that project and knows a lot about it. Phil seems to think that it could be a benefit to our programs and help send students our way. Some of the other people at the meeting seemed to think that it might actually hurt our programs, tell employers that you spent some time over there and they would just snatch them up and get them to work right away and pay them while they learn. I guess we will have to wait and see if it helps enrollment or not, but by the time that comes around our programs could already be gone.

Meeting closed at 5:30 p.m.