



## Northland Community & Technical College Welding Advisory Committee pre-meet

Date & Time: 12 March 2009; 6pm  
Black Cat

### MINUTES

**Attendees:** Bryan Steiger; Ron Palm; Jamie Nelson; Brent Smith; Ralph Williams; Jim Retka; Jeremy McDougall; Joel Ziegler

Topic	Discussion/Outcome
Called to order	6pm
1. Falling enrollment	<p>With low enrollment it was decided that the best way to try to increase was for Joel to get more face time with High Schools. The problem with that is, with only one person in the department the currently enrolled students lose out on instruction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The board wants Joel to get at least 5 days release time to spend full days recruiting; his current schedule only allows for Friday afternoons</li><li>• They don't want the welding dept to have to pay for subs, so they volunteered to come in for a day<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Volunteers are: Brent Smith, Ron Palm, Jamie Nelson, and Bryan Steiger. Denny Wilkens called while typing these minutes and also offered to come in for a day or two.</li></ul></li></ul>
2. Lab time	<p>Comparing the TRF welding program to others around the state; there was a concern about the lack of lab time and non-related welding courses in the program. They would like to see more time spent in the lab and less time on non-welding courses. (measuring tools, machine operations, electricity 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• With stimulus money becoming available, it was thought that there may be some monies available to make major changes to the program (re-design)</li><li>• The program should also try to find a niche market to specify the program to – currently it is geared more to production welding that is not very desirable to students coming out the high school.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A specialty mentioned was pipe welding – extremely lucrative, and also a shortage of pipe welders. Jamie Nelson stated that MN Limited, a pipeline company, had to drop the number of welders requested for a recent job because there were not enough applicants. It was recommended that we try to make contact with MN Limited (Jim Retka) to see what we can do to help them</li></ul></li></ul>
Adjourned	9:30pm