



# ACCREDITATION EVIDENCE

**Title:** Diesel and Heavy Equipment Program Spring Advisory Council Meeting

**Evidence Type:** Clear

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**Classification:** Minutes

**PII:** Yes

**Redacted:** No



**Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC)**  
**Diesel and Heavy Equipment Program Spring Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 23, 2021, 5:30 PM**  
**Room 3560A on the Rock Springs Campus**

In Attendance:

Randy Foster, Bridger Coal  
Josh Womble, Honnen Equipment  
Carlton DeWick, WWCC  
Paul Johnson, WWCC  
Ron Wild, Rocky Mountain Power  
Cliff Wittstruck, WWCC  
Charles Murray, WWCC  
Joe M Barbuto, WWCC  
Dallas Latham, Wyoming Machinery Company  
Wade Williams, Kenworth Sales  
Steven Jackson, WWCC  
Beau Murray, WWCC

Beau Murray called the meeting to order at 5:58 PM.

Beau Murray introduced changes to the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degrees and Certificate Programs within the Diesel and Heavy Equipment Program. He explained that two separate degrees previously offered have been combined into one AAS in Diesel Technology and two certificate programs. Core program classes will remain the same and local industry partners will continue to help provide machines/vehicles on which students can learn and gain first-hand experience. In addition to core classes, to earn the degree, students are required to take general education courses and choose six to twelve credits of elective courses.

Beau Murray presented information about the different courses available and the sequence of courses that students take in order to complete the program.

Paul Johnson added that these courses give students the option of choosing an emphasis on working either with heavy equipment or heavy trucks. He added that in addition to the AAS, students can also earn two additional certificates. He also explained that the decision to consolidate the program into one AAS degree and certificate program was in part due to an effort by the Federal Government to find ways for students to complete a program more quickly and efficiently and with less debt as a result of student loans.

Ron Wild asked if sophomore-level courses exist within the program.

Paul Johnson responded that general education courses are neither considered freshman or sophomore level classes.

Ron Wild asked why there are no 2000 level courses within the electives and core classes.

Paul Johnson responded that the courses have to be taken in sequential order, but there's no requirement that they are numbered a certain way.

Beau Murray introduced the two new certificate programs, Heavy Equipment, and Heavy Truck. He explained that a student can complete a one-year certificate with an emphasis in either area and that the certificate programs are designed to complement the AAS program.

Charles Murray asked if final tier four IT information is covered in the program.

Beau Murray responded that it is covered in the Engine Management courses.

Ron Wild asked how students can earn the credits they need in only one year.

Paul Johnson explained that five weeks long and there are 15 weeks in a semester that are completed in five-week blocks. Students are able to complete nine credit hours in the first and second blocks. He said that during the third block, they might only take two or three credits and that this system allows students to complete several credits within the period provided.

Ron Wild asked the group which classes are the most important to industry partners and whether what's currently offered is sufficient to meet workforce needs and prove beneficial to current employees.

Dallas Latham responded that the courses are good for entry-level positions and that employees who come out of the program have a good base of information and knowledge.

Randy Foster said that their company can reduce the amount of training they require for new hires if the person has completed this program.

All agreed that the program provides a great foundation for the diesel mechanics they hire.

Josh Womble said that even great diesel mechanics can use the coursework that covers electronics and that this program better prepares them for that kind of work.

Ron Wild asked if the group was of the opinion that a student could start this program while still in high school.

Dallas Latham responded that it would make a big difference in helping students absorb more information.

Paul Johnson replied that this program is difficult and that some high school students would have a difficult time completing the courses. He said it would be more beneficial to have high school-level courses developed that prepare students for the college programs.

Carlton DeWick said that high school students are able to complete several general education requirements before they even enter the program, which shortens the length of the program and leaves them more prepared to succeed.

Beau Murray said that we could talk next semester about considering more courses.

Dallas Latham asked how many local high school students enter the college program.

Beau Murray responded that not many students come from Rock Springs or Green River.

Carlton DeWick said that WWCC may see an increase in local students when Rock Springs High School goes to a four-day week schedule in the fall semester of 2021.

Beau Murray said that most students come from other areas in our region and Utah.

Ron Wild asked if that was due to marketing and if awareness of the program exists.

Beau Murray responded that it's in part due to students leaving town following their graduation from high school.

Carlton DeWick replied that there are a variety of things impacting the situation.

Josh Womble asked if a relationship exists between WWCC and the local high schools.

Paul Johnson replied that some college instructors have also taught at the high school and that WWCC is currently developing classes that will be available for high school students on Fridays.

Josh Womble asked if a student who is only interested in the certificate program has to complete general education courses.

Beau Murray answered that they would not need to take general education courses to earn a certificate.

Carlton Dewick asked the group if there was a preference between an employee who has completed an AAS and one who has only completed a certificate program..

Randy Foster replied that having either the AAS or certificate really helps prepare them for the job.

Carlton DeWick said WWCC partnerships with industry are crucial.

Dallas Latham said that when deciding on potential hires, an applicant with an AAS might be more desirable than one with only a certificate.

Paul Johnson mentioned that in response to a high school instructor asking if his robotic courses would translate to classes at WWCC, they were able to form a collaboration that resulted in the creation of new electronic courses at Rock Springs High School that provide students a better foundation for a degree program and courses at WWCC.

Ron Wild talked about Southwestern Wyoming Manufacturing Partnership, a program that started in 2017. He said that the group worked with WWCC to develop an operator's certificate program in nine months, which was a direct reflection of local workforce needs. He said it's possible to direct your own future and that the manufacturing partnership can help make it a reality.

Randy Foster and Dallas Latham mentioned that they are creating videos to show at the high school.

Carlton DeWick said that engaging with students at the high school level would help encourage them to attend WWCC.

Paul Johnson said that they have spent many years working with the high schools to create collaborations and that when industry became involved is when those partnerships really started to develop.

Carlton DeWick mentioned how important that it is for a student to have a job lined up before they're even done with the program. He said those partnerships make that possible.

Ron Wild said that if a certificate will get a student started on the path, they can choose to complete the AAS at a later date. He said that partnerships are important to the industry and becoming more involved with high schools is where they want to go.

Beau Murray introduced a new class within the AAS program, wheeled and track vehicles. He said it covers shop and machine safety and the principles of hoisting, rigging, and slings. He added that the course prepares students for several aspects of working with heavy machinery.

Beau Murray asked what else the industry would like to see from the program.

Randy Foster responded that courses covering lockout and tagout would be beneficial.

Beau Murray responded that it's a topic covered in some classes, but that more emphasis on the topic could be added to the new course.

Carlton DeWick added that any student taking the new course would also have to take industrial safety, which covers lockout and tagout.

Beau Murray explained that the course will also cover wheel and track drive working attachments and track drive undercarriage systems. He said that the program is hoping to purchase new equipment that corresponds to these topics and that giving background on hydraulics will help students when they enter the workforce.

Beau Murray said that the final part of the new course will cover undercarriage inspection and maintenance.

Beau Murray said the new class will be offered in a five-week block.

Beau Murray said that he wants to add information that covers machinery and different components of machines.

Randy Foster said it was a good idea to have those topics covered in the new class.

Beau Murray said that hands-on experience will be beneficial to students.

Josh Womble said that the removal of components is key to what his company does and that safety and proper rigging are critical, but not considered by most employees.

Beau Murray reiterated that wheeled and track attachments are covered in the new course and that he hopes to have equipment that provides hands-on training.

Paul Johnson said equipment donations to WWCC are welcomed.

Beau Murray asked the council if there were any other ideas to improve the course or the program and that if anyone has an idea, they can always reach him by email or phone.

Ron Wild asked when the new course would be implemented.

Beau Murray responded that right now he's hopeful that the class will be approved for the Fall 2021 semester.

Randy Foster suggested that it could be part of the certificate programs.

Dallas Latham asked if the power train information would be retained.

Josh Womble responded that power train information would be covered in the tracked equipment coursework and that heavy transmission information could also be incorporated.

Paul Johnson said that the class could be amended to include more information and become a six-credit course. He said it could also become a two-block, ten-week course if more is included in the coursework.

Josh Womble asked if differentials are covered in the new course.

Beau Murray responded that it will be and that students will have the opportunity to work on actual equipment.

Ron Wild asked if the group could help fill the class and that industrial support is crucial to the success of the course.

Beau Murray responded that when covid protocols are no longer necessary, having industry partners participate in career day would be terrific.

Paul Johnson announced that a WWCC tour would take place on May 11 from 1 to 4 PM, and invited council members to participate. He said it provides a showcase of programs and courses by WWCC faculty and includes all of the technology and information programs.

Dallas Latham mentioned he attended the last tour and it was very informative.

Randy Foster said he wouldn't be able to fill the new class in the fall.

Ron Wild said that it doesn't recruitment for the new course doesn't have to come from only a company's trainee programs, but that local industries can help spread the word about the class.

Paul Johnson said that having industry partners join WWCC faculty and staff at high school visits leaves a better impression on the students and encourages them to pursue a program.

Beau Murray asked if there was any additional feedback from the council.

Carlton DeWick introduced Steve Jackson as the new WWCC Automotives instructor.

Steve Jackson said that he will be teaching several of the electronics classes which are crucial to the diesel and automotive programs.

Beau Murray adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM.

**Western Wyoming Community College**  
**Diesel and Heavy Equipment Program Spring Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 5:30 pm**  
**Room 1512 on the Rock Springs Campus**

In Attendance:

Randy Foster, Bridger Coal  
Dave Schnabel, Bridger Coal  
Amy Murphy, WWCC  
Carlton Dewick, WWCC  
Leisa Mathews, WWCC

Beau Murray called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

Beau Murray stated that today's meeting would be an open discussion on the needs of the industry and how WWCC was or could support those needs.

Upcoming Fall will focus on powertrain clutches and transmissions. Student's will open them up and check for broken pieces, troubleshoot and look for causes.

Randy Foster stated that he would like to see more emphasis on how to look up information on the internet such as manuals, troubleshooting guides and follow those instructions on their own. Helps them gain confidence in using their resources.

Beau Murray let them know that also planned is working on U joints, drive lines and rear ends.



Dave Schnabel commented that they will help teach them how to check all the pinions and visually see how they mold together and asked about practicing installation.

Beau Murray let everyone know that students will be taking Engine Management 1 & 2 and Basic Electrical. Students will be pulling a wire harness and learn to use meters to trouble shoot. The shop currently has 4 running engines, 4<sup>th</sup> one doesn't run well – students will take the engine out and wire the new engine in and figure out the schematic to troubleshoot any problems.

Students will get to rebuild the 4<sup>th</sup> engine, tear it apart and put it back together. This will give them a better visual on the parts. It is much harder to look at the whole motor and try to diagnose as it can be intimidating as a whole unit.

Dave Schnabel asked about Allison transmissions.

Beau Murray let him know that WWCC does not do a lot of Allison work as most of our transmissions are electric.

There will also be a troubleshooting in the Intro to Heavy Duty Class

Students have had the opportunity to take the whole cab off and strip it down. During this they found a number of issues with lines and reservoirs and they are now reassembling it. It has given them a more in-depth knowledge on the smaller parts.

Carlton Dewick informed the industry partners that there will be a fundamentals class offered as the started class for the whole program including 4 stroke engines, precision measuring, inside/outside mics. The College is also receiving a new Cavitation Simulator in a glass box.

Beau Murray also shared that the students will be working on wheel cylinder replacement and disc brakes coming out of a semi that they have in class currently.

Randy Foster stated that learning how to remove/install air bags is vital.

Beau Murray let him know that they are working on airlines and systems, valve repair/replacement is in the truck that they now have to work on, so that gives good experience.

Dave Schnabel talked about the need to do some training for employees that were displaced by the underground workforce when it closed. He will work on what he needs and let Beau know.

Beau Murray also shared that he has a new method for organization, following direction, cleanliness, and issues such as when to use gaskets not silicone. Students will now do a journal to keep track of information, functions and notes.

Beau Murray let them know that WWCC is here to help.

Dave Schnabel and Randy Foster said that they are very satisfied with the training that is being done at the college.

Amy Murphy shared information on possible internships that could tie in with workforce programs for funding opportunities. She will help with the application. She is also working on a grand proposal to update equipment and add experience. If they have any new training that we do not currently offer, we could send him to training through Professional Development.

Beau Murray asked for any other comments-

- Randy let him know that he will be retiring in a few months.

- Possibly offering more Allison training. The mines mostly have automatics and now seeing most Fleet jobs going automatic.
- Experienced mechanics are hard to get, they can't even read a micrometer. Possibly adding that into current courses offered.
- The college instruction is much better than doing it on their own.
- The certificate that was made for the mine at PacifiCorp is done on the mine time-after that they do it on their own time but they will assist on payment.
- Interns are mentored – the unions did not agree to interns.

Beau adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.