

Executive Summary: Oil and Gas Production Program at the WCCC

Actions to Date:

The Warren County Career Center has spent time this year researching the implementation of an Oil and Gas Production Program. This Program would be called the Well Tender and Roustabout Program and would actually be a component of our existing Power Equipment and Technology Program of Study.

Currently, students in the Power Equipment Technology complete basic competencies in their first year and then go on to specialize in either Marine Technology or Motorcycle Maintenance. The Oil and Gas would be a third potential area of specialty that can be provided within the structure of the current curriculum with the addition of some specialty equipment. The conception for this program began as a result of a number of factors including Industry Trends, School Superintendent support, and the concerns about the lack of a trained workforce that have been expressed by local business people.

There has been strong encouragement to implement the program due to the resurgence in production and exploration of oil and gas in our local area. Factors such as the rising cost of crude oil and natural gas has made it profitable to bring old leases online and to explore new leases domestically. New technologies are emerging to locate oil and gas reserves. The reliance on foreign oil and gas has caused pressure to produce oil and Gas domestically.

In the past several months, a business climate survey, workforce needs assessment, and incumbent workers surveys have been conducted by the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Association and the Pa. Oil, the Gas Extraction Partnership and other organizations. Their research has determined a severe need for these types of programs.

A meeting was held in January which was comprised of workforce investment boards, oil and gas companies, regional business and development boards, the Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry and the Warren County Career Center. The committee concluded that the Oil Well Tender and Roustabout Program would best be implemented as a specialty area of the Power Equipment Technology area. Many of the competencies, safety instruction, tools and equipment are directly related in these areas. Furthermore, the WCCC welding area would also take part in the welding competencies. After this meeting, the need for an Occupational Advisory Committee became clear. This committee would play a major part in the development of program [competencies/duty/task list] program equipment and staff development.

After meeting with numerous productions personal, Oil and Gas Educational Programs, business and industry leaders and the O.A.C., a general consensus regarding the best way for students to be trained was reached by the WCCC staff. (Please see the Oil & Gas Well Tending / Roustabout Brochure for more explanation.) The major concerns were obvious safety, environment, competencies and cost. Everyone agreed that the best way to proceed was to build a mock oil well site utilizing a water-well site on school district property. This would remove most of the safely and environmental and locus of control issues and reduce the cost. Also a Semco trailer service – rig would be purchased to reduce liability concerns and provide the students some viable rig experience. With the purchase of the service –rig and the implementation of the water

well mock oil-well site will validate our commitment to this program. Moreover, it will make it easier to go to business and industry for explicit donations to enhance the program.

Financial Implications:

Several area businesses have professed support for this program. We have several partnerships established where equipment will be loaned to the program on a temporary basis so that students can see it and observe the workings of the equipment. We also have local industry partners who are willing to donate some funding for the start of the program. The Superintendent has money remaining in the Contingency Fund and he has proposed that he would like to designate up to \$25,000 from that fund to support the equipment needed for this program. In the meantime, we are actively working to raise funds within the community. At this time, we have tentative pledges for \$10,000 and we will continue to work to raise money for this program so that we can reduce the cost to the District.

The total cost for equipment in year one should be about \$25,000. Bid rules and purchasing regulations will need to be followed, so this is an approximate total.

Recommended Motions:

That the Board of School Directors directs the administration and staff to offer Oil and Gas Production as a component of the Power Equipment Technology program beginning in Fall of 2011.