

DVR Technology & Engineering Committee

Meeting 2 – Friday, November 13th, 2015 8:30-11:30

Topics Engineering & Manufacturing Focus

Triton T-164 River Grove, IL

In Attendance: Frank Holthouse – Leyden, Nick Michalek – Oak Park and River Forest, Eduardo Rodriquez - Proviso, David Weishaar – Riverside Brookfield, Brian Collier - Ridgewood, Antigone Sharris and Andrea Blaylock - Triton

Introductions – 21 Education and industry members were present at this meeting.

Updates: Deltrol, A1, Manor, Scott Forge reviewed apprentice and internship programs. Most had the same process of interviewing, working, with eventually funding training.

Opportunities: Scott Forge is looking for local high schools to produce parts as well as interns for this summer. Shopware is looking for application support techs. Co-Op courses as well stackable credentials were discussed. It was noted that ACT Workkeys assessments are still given by most employers to determine aptitude.

Education: District 89 partnered with Triton to provide STEM opportunities for middle school students. Deltrol and National Fluid Power Association (NFPA) is doing an 8th grade Fluid power challenge. Grant fund are available for groups looking to start a challenge. The consensus from multiple industry members is that soft skills and aptitude tests are generally more valued than credentials. Most members use the math and reading for information section of Work Keys and want candidates to earn a 5 or better. The Gadget documentary clip, found here, <http://www.bivouacfilms.com/work-in-progress.html> was shown.

DVR VEX robotics – It was noted that most school now have Vex robotic kits. Plans were made to create a competition for DVR students.

Feedback from local Labor Market: Members has a conversation on gender equity importance. It was noted that more engaging way of having companies visit schools (no PowerPoints). Tours are a great option. Communication and resiliency is extremely important to employers.

Curriculum: Companies reviewed Tritons offerings to look for gaps between industry needs and course offerings. Members discussed the importance of a full academic pathway. Also the importance of marketing was shared. This is the only way for community members to be aware of pathway. The DVR programs of study website was shared with members. Finally, it was suggested that we present all pathways (employment, community college, and college) and also highlight the financial requirements and benefits.