Flint Hills Technical College – KanTRAIN Site Initiatives

* The Welding Technology program continues to establish new Business and Industry relationships. Two hundred business and industry representatives were invited to the 2018 Reverse Career Fair scheduled for April 18th at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of the Reverse Career Fair (RCF) is to allow students to speak with Business and Industry representatives while highlighting their skills. Participating students will display their certified AWS SMAW D1.1 and AWS GMAW D1.1 weld plates, bend test plates, and additional welding projects of their choosing. The weld plates will provide students with the opportunity to showcase their welding skills to Business and Industry. Additionally, this allows representatives from the welding industry to provide relevant feedback and screen students for potential employment.

The businesses were also invited to sponsor the event. The sponsorship funds will enable FHTC to expand outreach for the event, provide a luncheon for students and business attendees, and to cover printing and other items necessary to create a successful event. We have four businesses sponsoring the event, thus far. Their donations total $2,100.00. This event was very well received last year and we are excited to connect businesses and students, once again.

* Our Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT) is also growing. We initially partnered with Praxair, Sauder Custom Fabrication, and Boilermakers Union Local 83. They continue to provide valuable input and support for the program. We have added several new businesses to BILT; DPP Mfg., FCS Mfg., and Mitchell Markowitz Construction. Caterpillar Work Tools Inc. has also expressed an interest in collaborating with our program.
* With an aging population and retirement of laborers in the welding field a reality, a demand for a new and skilled workforce is evident. There is a need for welders who can step into positions once held by individuals with many years of experience in their trade. Women are becoming a targeted sector of our population by companies to help bridge the gap. With female students interested in welding careers increasing at FHTC, it is encouraging to know that industry recognizes the importance of their role in meeting the demand for a skilled workforce. One female student is taking charge and rallying with other female welding students to spark female interest in welding and promote diversity in the labor market. They hope their efforts will empower more women to pursue careers in the welding field.

The KanTRAIN staff at FHTC are making efforts to support and promote the women in welding campaign through videos, newspaper articles, newsletters, and word of mouth. A video crew will be at our location on Monday, February 26, 2018. They will be following a female student through her day at work and college. The crew will also interview the other ladies and find out what inspired them to enroll in FHTC’s welding technology program.

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