

Construction Trades and Management - Advisory Board Meeting - November 7, 2024

Unknown 0:10

This is the Advisory Board meeting for Fall 2024 on Thursday, November 7. I'm Doug Van Dalinda, the construction trades instructor. At the meeting, we have Brooks Wright from Brooks Wright Construction, Blaine Schultz from Yeoman Joinery, Walter Scott, formerly from Efficiency Vermont, and Evan Schleif from Schleif Construction and Design.

You Doug: 0:39

You Doug 0:43

So, the demographics of the student body. My current student body is made up of four males and one female. Again, as I said, two more males may join the group. Two of them are seniors, and the rest of them are juniors.

You Doug 1:06

That's it. As far as the student body is concerned,

You Doug 1:10

The student performance levels: everybody is doing well so far at the end of the first quarter; everybody has a 90 or above. So they're all doing really well. You saw some of the items we're working on: toolboxes and cutting boards. Everybody's well skilled or developing skills well. And they are doing, you know, an excellent job with content and curriculum. The NCCER Core is the main book we use for their first year in school, and in their second year, we use the NCCER General Carpentry textbook. It is to try and get them out on Co-Op or the general carpentry book so they have the option of not going out on co-op. If they decide to stay in the program, there's a general carpentry book put out by the same company NCCER that would be used as their their curriculum for the year. So the, I guess, the the questions that were supposed to be discussed as you looked at the core book. So, what equipment needs do you foresee that students might need to be trained on or have skills on within the next three to five years? Oh, uh, communication, yeah, communication,

Unknown 2:32

just pitch in. Sure. I see tools changing and becoming much more high tech.

Unknown 2:40

I'm trying to think of

Unknown 2:42

a distinct example, but one

Unknown 2:45

of the carpenters that works for me is younger, and he's very into the gadgets. I guess there's tapes now that you can basically just point shoot instead of drawing a measuring tape, and it will take that measurement and automatically send it to a corresponding tablet. So if someone's on a roof, someone's the roof person, and then someone on the ground is the cut person, it just the cut list just shows up on the tablet. Wow, next to the saw stuff like that, I feel is kind of where things are going to move. And I'm not an expert on it,

Unknown 3:19

fairly accurate, I suppose. No, I mean, they're,

Unknown 3:22

do they work? Well, yeah, yeah. I mean, they're supposed to work incredibly well, yeah, yeah, which could also take some user error out of the equation, a bit potentially Cool.

Unknown 3:37

Any other tools, programs I did, look, I did a little bit of research that, like, the future of construction, what would be needed. And one of them was, like, management systems that would be, I would think that'd be larger companies. I'm not sure what you use as far as a management system, if you just still pen and paper or tablet? Yeah, is there anything that way that would be?

Unknown 4:00

But I'm involved in a project, whereas there's like, a separate project manager, and they work for a company that's, it's a lot of that's what they're doing, scheduling, budgeting and communication and line they're the ones lining up the subs and making doing a lot of work, you know, to really hound, not hound people, but to make sure they're showing up, and which takes a lot of persistence, many times. So that's all software based, no, not all that, but they do have a pro core is the name of their program, and so they can

track law, they have logs and something like that, should be more tuned into it. And maybe I will, if the projects on hold right now while being there's some remediation going on. So,

Unknown 4:52

yeah, I've worked with some of that software, or apps, whatever they're calling it nowadays, an app is same thing, same thing in software, right?

Unknown 5:01

I think it is, yeah, yeah. In terms

Unknown 5:03

of management, tracking, everything, change orders, hours, who's doing what, scheduling, it's just going in that direction, away from pen and paper, yeah,

Unknown 5:18

for sure, as

Unknown 5:19

we're seeing with the, like, you

Unknown 5:24

whatever, some of the chat stuff and everything you know can, like,

Unknown 5:29

whatever the AI technology, yeah, exactly. But yeah, I kind of come in things just because of, like, the way I was educated in building from, like, almost the exact opposite I'll come from, like, hand tools entirely. And I think there's a lot of value in that, still, just because, like, I look at situations differently than a lot of like carpenters, where it's like, you need to go grab like, a certain kind of tool, but then I'll have like, a tool right on me that can get it done, like, a lot faster with, like a quick you know, instead of needing a power tool, or, like a look of whatever multi tool, oscillating saw or something I have, yeah, exactly. I have, like a little I have, like multiple knives on at all times for different things, and like an ax nearby, and like chisels and shit like that. But, oh, man, I'm jealous. Yeah, it's a lot of fun. But obviously it totally depends on the jobs and stuff, and clearly with what I get to do, I'm often touching, like, cleaner wood and stuff that just doesn't beat the heck out of your tools so bad. But there's often during like, trim work and stuff, been doing a bunch of siding and things, and so you're constantly having a notch around window openings and stuff like that. So being able to have those skills, I

think it's nice to be able to kind of pick your poison that way and know how to do it. And so almost to me, I'm like, I think of that as, like, perhaps that's like fundamentals or something like that, or like a

Unknown 6:49

whatever, but that's also can be kind of a lost art. So

Unknown 6:52

in a way, it's new, yeah, if you don't even realize it's there,

Unknown 6:56

totally, there's a majority of what you do, hand joinery,

Unknown 6:59

yeah, like, I would say I'm like, almost split right down the middle because of, just, yeah, where my shop stuff is at. So I've got like, kind of really big, powerful mortisers and, like, the massive beam saws and stuff like that. But I also was like, trained by a guy, and I still work with him frequently, who's, like, hand tool everything. And he's a big mostly getting their restoration carpentry. So like, he's, you know, fixing old frames and doing them, whatever, with hand tools, because

Unknown 7:29

that's just what he does. He's a purist. He's

Unknown 7:31

a purist, exactly. So he's a purist. And then I also work with another timber framer who I'm working with, like, last month, who's more techie than me. So I'm kind of like, right down the middle. I feel like, Yeah, but it's nice to be able to just, sort of, it's nice spot to be in. I think, yeah, I guess I can kind of look both ways and be like, All right, I see the Exactly. And it's a funny thing. It's like, there's times where, like, I said, I've been working with the more techie timber framer for the last month, and so I might, like, kind of the tool that I'm going to grab is going to be more geared towards that for a specific thing. But then, you know, just with like, a little practice, or if you have something that you find really useful right next to you all the time, then, you know, for example, when I'm working with a more old school kind of Carpenter, then that's the kind of thing I'll grab, too. Yeah, and yeah, sharpening, he sharpens his own saws and stuff like that. That's like, you know, exactly. It's like, you know, so it's like, nothing's like disposable. It's like, you got steel, and if you can sharpen it, and then you have wood and you can shape it, then you can basically make anything.

Unknown 8:35

It's awesome, yeah. How old is this guy? Just,

Unknown 8:38

like, 40, yeah. But he was just, he was raised, homeschooled, like, he was raised, like, very in a purist way, too.

Unknown 8:46

His name's not Jeff, is it? No, it's

Unknown 8:50

not timber framer and tumbridge, yeah.

Unknown 8:52

He's the more techie one. Actually, I worked with Jeff Porter, yeah, but he does a lot of hand stuff. Like, he's not, he's not a laser pointing, you know, he's that, not like that level or anything, but he's just got more of the general contractors stuff, yeah, modern general contractors Type Kit.

Unknown 9:09

She does big projects. Yeah, exactly.

Unknown 9:11

We're doing, like a big barn right now, or I'm helping him do a big barn and then cool, yeah,

Unknown 9:15

so he's not using a CNC machine. No,

Unknown 9:18

no. It's definitely, exactly not like that.

Unknown 9:22

No, AI yet. No,

Unknown 9:23

hopefully never. That came up when I was kind of doing a little bit of research, was robotics is something of the future. I didn't get too far into it by saying, like, students

should know about robotics coming up, because it's going to be something in the future that's going to be used automated

Unknown 9:37

shop panel tools, as far as heavy,

Unknown 9:41

heavy equipment, tools, self driving, forklifts, excavators,

Unknown 9:45

oh, yeah, gotcha, yeah, which, I

Unknown 9:49

guess they consider all that stuff, robotics, we wouldn't think of the self driving, yeah,

Unknown 9:53

self moving, if there's no operator. I mean, I guess it's a robot, right? Interesting,

Unknown 9:57

I think for some students that are want to design and plan things like SketchUp and some of those platforms. There's a house Pro. I mean, there's a bunch of them, yeah. And, I mean, somebody that can get their hands on that and all sudden, there it is. They could spin it and turn it and look at it and really get a feel for how it goes together and what it looks like, yeah. I mean, I remember, I remember just drafting projects on by hand, and that was good. You could see everything. But this SketchUp is amazing, how fast I agree stuff like that. I mean, I think as more people go out on their own, and somebody says, Yeah, I want to build a barn. Okay, boom. Here's what it looks like. You know what I'm thinking? What do you think? Yeah, yeah, it's

Unknown 10:47

an excellent sales tool. Yeah, as well. That's a big part of what I do is sales, which we're not here to talk about sales and psychology, but if someone is going to be a GC, yeah, it's all about psychology, of having employees, keeping them happy, and same thing for the customer. So

Unknown 11:09

that goes into like, communication skills,

Unknown 11:11

yeah, yeah, sort of

Unknown 11:13

Yes. One thing I've noticed over the years for all the different construction crews I've seen, that there's been an evolution in their tools, mine too, going from power cords to battery and I was asking people about it. He says, This drill is I don't have to drag a freaking extension cord two floors to try, you know, just to use this thing. And lot more people are going battery operated. I mean, chop saws totally. Everyone saw his battery operated, yeah. I think there's more. I think the tools are changing toward that totally things too. Yeah.

Unknown 11:50

On the downside, I think, you know, get all hold up. Well, in the cold winters, right? If you leave in your truck overnight, they Yeah, slow start. Just totally

Unknown 11:57

Yeah, two or three batteries, the other one didn't keep going. Yes, seriously, convenient. So yeah, plan, but it's all going to be going to that over the years. Yeah, even

Unknown 12:11

we just last year, we got the framing nailers that are battery operated, and they pretty amazing. They work really well. Yeah, yeah, as good as pneumatic or

Unknown 12:19

the gas operated the pass load framers to two of my carpenters that I work with. They I've only seen them set up one corded tool ever, ever, and yesterday, I cut a concrete wall opening with a battery powered wet saw. Wow. How'd

Unknown 12:40

that go? Like, did it last long enough for you the battery?

Unknown 12:44

You mean? No, it took two batteries, okay, yeah, to cut, like a man hole through a concrete foundation. But I did it inside. So I was able to do it inside, because there was no gasoline fumes. Otherwise, I couldn't have done it. And they're able to they're a lot safer, because it can sense when the blade is binding, and instead of the entire tool like bucking on you and potentially cutting your face off, it just stops, right? Yeah. So that is the future for sure, yeah,

Unknown 13:14

and definitely the safety features that come along with it, yeah, be significant, right? Yeah. All right, so I think we just hip to the equipment and technology and software. Yeah, definitely. The last one was the the review of the IRC, IRCs and college credit offerings for the program, so the students have access to, oh, it's one or two college credits, so they can't take for dual enrollment. And I think the college courses, I couldn't find them like to print out, but I think one of those, like basic drawing, like blueprint drawings, reading and actually creating, one of those that had, I think, was tied to design work, and then I forget what the third one was. But if there's any any suggestions as far as what might be beneficial for students as far as college level to have access to

Unknown 14:05

and college level meaning VTC or VTC. Oh, I

Unknown 14:09

guess so. VTC is now tied with CCV. So I think CCV is where the current college credits are tied. I guess would be access to anywhere if they if it's something that might be worthy.

Unknown 14:21

Remind me what CCV is, yeah, Community

Unknown 14:27

College of Vermont career Yeah.

Unknown 14:37

College of Vermont Career Center Vermont VTC recently rebrand their name, and then state. Now there

Unknown 14:42

was state, yeah, they were taken over by VSU. They were taken over, or they not taken over, the merged, or whatever you want to

Unknown 14:50

college. Does it become universities?

Unknown 14:52

So it's Vermont. Vermont State University.

Unknown 14:55

Is that what Johnson is, or is that what BTS?

Unknown 14:59

Yeah, Johnson and Linden are the northern universities. Forget what they call Castleton,

Unknown 15:06

and then Vermont tech is

Unknown 15:08

Community College of Vermont.

Unknown 15:14

So everything's merging, our colleges, hospitals, everything is just moving towards a larger, yeah, rather than a satellite, right?

Unknown 15:24

Yeah, a lot of databases because, like, the Gifford can't communicate with Dartmouth, you know, I think those things are going to

Unknown 15:31

be, yeah, Dartmouth has already taken over quite a few, right there, everywhere last Yeah,

Unknown 15:38

they definitely want to pull in a Bethel Mills, just, yeah, no, I

Unknown 15:47

think they definitely, definitely want to get Gifford feel like, yeah,

Unknown 15:51

Gifford is anyways, we're off track. But I have inside track on Gifford, and the finances are not good. Unfortunately, yeah,

Unknown 16:03

I was gonna say as far as college. I mean,

Unknown 16:08

at the student level, I mean, they have a major decision process. College, no, I'm scared. I don't even want to think of it. I'm going to stay over here. But there's some that really wanted. So I think deciding which students want to do the college course may be the first step. Right? Do you know, are you guys interested in this, whatever, however you introduce it, and there's gonna probably be some that thing. No, no, no, thanks. I don't want that. But the ones that are, you know, like this guy you've got going up to BTC, yeah, that's great, yeah, that's great.

Unknown 16:46

So he's gonna, one of them wants to go, there's a, is there Rhode Island, I think there's a technical institute for carpentry or construction. Oh, is that right? Yeah, he's a two year program. No good students. Wants to go there and become a cabinet maker woodwork. So, so that

Unknown 16:59

would be similar to North Bennett Street School in Boston.

Unknown 17:02

Yeah, I assume, yeah. And

Unknown 17:08

then the tier two IRCs. I mean, we sort of reviewed those before I hit the record button. I don't know what other options or choices there would be or could be, so I don't know, looking through the book, you think it's an adequate curriculum,

Unknown 17:25

yeah. So I'm still like, I'm not fully following exactly. I forget already what the IRC represents. So it's

Unknown 17:31

an industry recognized credential. So they would get, like, a certificate the end saying you are NCC, are certified in core, which is starting college credit as well. It's not a college cut Vista. The college credit would be a dual enrollment. So they would enroll in a college course and take that as a separate thing, and they would get a college credit to if they wanted to, if they wanted to just get the credit, to get the credit, or apply if they were going to be already paid for for them.

Unknown 17:55

And so how would they like be working towards getting that college credit? Would that

be like, very much along the lines, like, by studying this particular IRC, they'd probably be able to, like, pass a test in the college.

Unknown 18:09

So they would actually have to, while they're going to school here, they'd actually have to take a college course. Gotcha, and they'll all be online. Yes, it'll be all online. It was set aside time for them to whatever it is, an hour a day or a couple hours a week, whatever they needed to, yeah, to get through that course for the semester. Yeah. So you would say you would support that. Yep, absolutely. That might be a nice

Unknown 18:26

taste for somebody who's kind of right

Unknown 18:28

on the fence. Yep, there's one credit with nothing tied to it, you know, you do for you. If you pass, you get the credit you apply it to if you want to go on in the future. If not, then, right? You got a taste of what it could be like. Not a huge deal, no financial burden. Surprisingly, a lot of students don't take advantage of it, even though we try and promote, promote, but they just like they don't want to do put in an extra

Unknown 18:53

I would imagine. They're not old enough and wise enough. You have to realize the value of that, right for

Unknown 18:58

sure, and there's much you should tell them again it's

Unknown 19:02

like, experiencing things, being told things,

Unknown 19:12

which is why some people just want to get out there, right? Yeah.

Unknown 19:16

It depends who's telling them to sometimes

Unknown 19:21

the teacher is telling me, yeah, totally. So they start backing off, right? Yeah,

Unknown 19:24

yeah, yeah. Or my parents, yeah,

Unknown 19:27

yeah, yeah. Or my

Unknown 19:29

husband told me

Unknown 19:32

even pay attention to my friend mentions it three years later, and then I'm like, I've been trying to get you do that for three years. It's awesome, the college thing. But I do think one of the strongest parts of this whole program is the work study deal. Because I'm a firm believer in in college and academia being a theoretical atmosphere, and that's very different than reality. So I think the sooner these kids can get a dose of reality and see what it's going to be like in their chosen field, the sooner they'll be able to then make a accurate decision as to whether they want to dump money and time into studying that at a collegiate level. Because so many people will go to college for something, graduate with a piece of paper and then get the job and be like, I hate this, right? It's so different than I thought it was going to be. Yeah, yeah, good. That's my take on very good. Yeah.

Unknown 20:31

I agree, yeah. So that senior year, getting them out on Co Op and or providing those opportunities, yeah?

Unknown 20:36

Almost, maybe requiring it, maybe not, I don't know, but

Unknown 20:41

yeah, I try, I try that, or have at least the last few years, try to, you know, can get them out and Co Op. I have two seniors this year. It's their first year in program. So if I can get them the NCCR credential by the end of the first semester, I already told like, the second semester, I talked to the director, if we can get them out senior year working second semester, even if it's a couple days a week, just like so, just to see, yeah, said that one kid wants to be a cabinet maker, so somebody in Roxbury looking at way working shop. So that's what you want to be here. Don't

Unknown 21:11

go and give it a try. Yeah? Because YouTube is totally different than life University. I've

just known so many people that have tried the trades, and it's lasted six months, yeah, and they've gone back to banking or driving a truck or whatever. Don't realize the work effort. Yeah, it's not like on TV. It's not the shows. Yeah, right,

Unknown 21:42
that wraps up the

Unknown 21:47
heavy conversation

Unknown 21:52
talked about over the years.

Unknown 21:59
You know, maybe there's a couple students that want to tap into something like that. I don't know much about apprenticeships, but I've heard so

Unknown 22:05
there is AGC. I don't even know what all the acronyms, I don't even know what that stands for, either, but it's a contracting entity in Vermont, and they just, they're starting a construction and I think plumbing as well apprenticeship, but they haven't gotten it fully rolling yet. They're just starting to roll it out. And we have CTE meetings every fall and spring, and they were just at the last one in the fall, and they're going to try to, I spoke with the guy, and they're going to try and push into the tech programs, carpentry programs, and try and get students involved somehow. So while they're here, they can maybe gain some or earn some credits or whatever would take toward an apprenticeship, which would be

Unknown 22:47
good, yeah, a union shop or job. They usually provide an apprenticeship. They have apprenticeship program, what they call it, but you know, so people coming in go through this apprenticeship for whatever amount of time, for what their specialty is, and then when they're finished and they graduate, I don't even know terms I'm using, but you know, they're right there on the job. This is the job. Now they're

Unknown 23:13
it's just a work learn,

Unknown 23:16

right?

Unknown 23:17
System, right?

Unknown 23:18
I don't know much about apprenticeships. It's

Unknown 23:20
not there's a lot of unions in or at least carpentry unions in Vermont itself. I know New Hampshire has one or two locals. I don't think Vermont has that many. It's

Unknown 23:29
more of a urban city, commercial, work oriented gig.

Unknown 23:35
Maybe Montpelier would have or Montpelier that I'm unaware of

Unknown 23:39
thin must especially for government buildings and maintenance. I

Unknown 23:45
don't know about road work. There's

Unknown 23:46
electrical unions. I know Peck electric was part of the Union for quite a few years. I could qualify. I think they're going out. They went out of business.

Unknown 23:56
They were bought out by a huge company. But I time

Unknown 24:05
went out once, I once, I guess they, they started roll it out and have maybe a couple of classes, or whatever the blocks of time are that the apprenticeship is, they're going to try and maybe push into some of the tech tech centers and see

Unknown 24:17
great. So their system is they're they're a separate entity. They're not a business, they're not a business. So

Unknown 24:25

I think they're

Unknown 24:31

gonna find it, but they try to line apprentices up with employers. They're like a matchmaker or,

Unknown 24:41

yeah, good questions,

Unknown 24:43

trying to ask the hard stuff, the apprenticeship.gov or whatever

Unknown 24:48

the government site.

Unknown 24:50

This is Clayton Squires. He's the assistant director of the school Associated General Contractors of Vermont. So they're trying to start their own

Unknown 25:03

apprenticeship program, training program,

Unknown 25:05

standardized.

Unknown 25:06

Wow, sorry, I made money to be based off of something like this, like the NCCR core curriculum, or general carpentry curriculum, or the or combination thereof of for

Unknown 25:14

the industry, for the industry, and then set their their graduates loose, correct?

Unknown 25:18

Or maybe help them get you so

Unknown 25:22

they're kind of doing what you're doing. I mean, you guys are basically doing the same

thing. You're training people to enter the field, right? So

Unknown 25:31

I'm not sure how they would be tied, like how they would push into tech centers, if they would get some other type of curriculum and say, Well, this is, this is what we see is working. This is what we see is needed or and somehow dictate, not dictate, but like, you know, work together to collaborate. Maybe

Unknown 25:46

they must have standards and things that you have to do be part of

Unknown 25:55

this electrical they they actually go for an apprenticeship. He Peter trains them to be get ready, I guess, for the apprenticeship. But I don't think they actually test for it, so they have testing, like the plumbing, but construction, there's not really any formal testing to Yeah, okay, now you're certified because

Unknown 26:11

it's not a licensed career path. That's the only reason why plumbing and electrical has the apprentice journeyman Master System is because each one of those comes with a licensure and it's and it's totally required by law. That's something actually that has been bounced around in the carpentry field for a while. Is why our carpenters held to the same standards when you know you're exposing people to just as much danger as you know, flood from pipe, bad piping or electrical fire or shock is like some stage this building could fall on us. How is it any different? Why should carpenters not have this system that they have to go through with required proof of understanding? It would be a good thing for the industry. I think it would weed out a lot of the fly by night hacks, also raise rates and respect and yeah, so

Unknown 27:06

can you make that happen? I'll work on it tomorrow. Change

Unknown 27:10

American culture. We

Unknown 27:11

have a three day weekend.

Unknown 27:18

All right, going to conclude the Advisory Board meeting. adjourned. Yes.