

CALIFORNIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL

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ADDRESS REPLY TO:
California Apprenticeship Council
P. O. Box 420603
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Equal Opportunity in Apprenticeship Committee

Minutes

Chairperson Sheri Learmonth

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

I. Call to order/Roll Call

Chairperson Learmonth called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Chief Rood did the roll call.

Present: Sheri Learmonth, Earl Restine, Larry Hopkins, Jack Buckhorn, and DAS Chief Eric Rood.

Absent: Chip Marti, Brandon Brockhouse and Frank Quintero

- A quorum was met.

II. Review/approve previous meeting minutes.

A motion and a second was made to approve the minutes from the prior meeting.

The motion carried.

III. Presentation- *Angie Simon, founder of Heavy Metal Summer Experience*

Commissioner Sheri Learmonth introduced our guest speaker. She stated that our guest speaker has a reputation in the Bay area as a strong businesswoman, an excellent engineer as well as, an advocate for all women in the construction field

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as well as youth. Angie Simon is a Past President and CEO of Western Allied Mechanical, she was the first ever female national President 2019-2021 of SMACNA and a Member of Dean of Engineering Advisory Board at Cal Poly SLO and Elon University. Angie is a registered professional mechanical engineer in the State of California. Angie graduated from Cal Poly San Louis Obispo with an engineering degree while playing NCAA softball for 4 years. She just retired after 35 years, has 2 adult sons, and has been married for 32 years. But today the EEO committee is lucky enough to have her here to talk to us about the Heavy Metal Summer Experience. A warm welcome was given.

Angie Simon, founder of Heavy Metal Summer Experience. Stated that she appreciates getting a chance to share with us this idea of summer camps that we started. And amazingly, how it's taking off.

We started this back in 2020, with the idea at Western Allied mechanical to that we were adjacent to East Palo Alto they were in our backyard, many different nonprofits in the East Palo Alto area, but we realized that we are really they

In our first summer we had 2 camps, one in Seattle and one in Menlo Park, and we had about 28 kids. Kids have been through 3 different companies, one industrial, one commercial, one residential to give exposure to all aspects of the trade.

One positive thing the kids get out of this program is the opportunity of choice around their future. They're able to open so many doors. There are too many

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people who don't know about the trades, and we are changing that. In this program they also talk about Financial Literacy and benefits in the trades such as 401k and retirement. Another positive thing for the students was they all received tool bags. Milwaukee and DeWalt have been amazing partners for us.

She shared her videos and a PowerPoint that contained details of the program that had been created to facilitate exposure to youth in sheet metal, piping, and plumbing trades. Targeting adverse youth of high school age.

They provide access to educational opportunities enabling students to develop knowledge and skills necessary to achieve professional goals and provide leadership and service to their communities.

- In the First summer-2021- 2 camps and 28 students. We have placed 6 of these students in the trades.
- In the second summer 2022, 11 camps across the country, about 170 students. We have approximately 32 placed in the trades.
- In the third summer 2023, we had 21 cramps across the US and one in Canada, approximately 325 students projected.
- HMSE formed a non-profit in April 2022.
- www.hmse.org

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One thing noted is that out of 16 kids in a camp there might be 5 or 6 kids that have graduated high school. The rest might be going into senior or junior year, so we can't place all the kids we have attend.

She stated out of the 21 individual camps nationwide, 100% of them are planning on scheduling camps for next year. We had over 130 plus minority students. I think we ended up being about 150 of the students of those 300 or so or minority. So, we're slightly under 50%. But we were happy with those numbers. This past summer there was a 20% ratio of young women who participated in the program.

A short discussion on hosting a camp and what is needed took place. Also discussed what HMSE provides to help you host the camp. It was mentioned that they also provide a liaison for each new camp. She stated that it was recommended that the camps should be about 30 hours while really trying to focus on the underserved communities. She stated that they also encourage fundraising for their programs.

Angie stated that Heavy metal is focused on the unionized trades. In that we are being supported by SMACNA, SMART, NECA, IBEW, UA and MCAA. So, we are focused on the unionized side. But what we found out is we are surprised at how few kids in high school seem to know about the trades.

Commissioner Sheri Learmonth thanked Angie Simon for her presentation.

Several community members ask for additional information on the program.

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Meg requested progressing data reports and ERICA grants information. DAS Deputy Chief Adele Burnes stated that they were in process of gathering data stage, and they asked how we could support them. She also stated that the first round of payments we going to be released soon. Adele stated that she is hopeful that in our next meeting, and beyond that we can start to share some of the stories and activities coming out of the ERICA grants. I hope to be bringing similar demonstration activities that are funded by the ERICA grants to come and present.

Jack Buckhorn spoke on funding grants and early barriers.

V. Other Items of Interest

Thanked everyone for their participation.

VI. Adjournment

Chairperson Learmonth adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.