

## Truck Driving Academy

### BLC Meeting Minutes

Date: December, 6th 2022 <sup>CH</sup>

Location: Dyers Barbecue

Industry Attendees:

David Ferril	T-Miller Wrecker	tmillerwrecker@hotmail.com
Kenneth Smerud	Allen Butler	
Shane Storrs	Allen Butler	
Johnny Puckett	Bruckners	jpuckett@brucknertruck.com
Brett Lawler	City of Amarillo	Brett.Lawler@amarillo.gov
Chris Quigley	City of Amarillo	Chris.Quigley@amarillo.gov
Cody Cagle	Sky rite sign co	ccagle@skyrite.com
Megan Ferril	T-Miller Wrecker	tmillerwrecker@hotmail.com

Meeting start: 12:15PM

#### Agenda:

- 1.[Rusty] - Welcome and Program Changes
2. [Ryan] - BLC Overview
3. [Dr. Munoz and David Hall] - Acknowledgment and Leadership Change
4. [Ryan] - Grad Leaders and Employer Match
5. [Tony] - Expanding Program and Safety Classes
6. Open industry discussion

#### Minutes:

The meeting commenced with Rusty and Ryan providing an overview of the BLC and its purpose. No presentation or handout was given.

David welcomed all attendees and shared information about recent program changes, including the appointment of a new coordinator and doubling the program's size.

David expressed gratitude to Tony for taking on the leadership role amidst the changes in the coordinator position.

Tony then provided specific details about the program expansion, mentioning the challenges of acquiring trucks and plans to purchase new simulators. Additionally, he informed the group about the reintroduction of safety meetings with the staff.

During the discussion, a question was raised regarding hiring apprentices under 21. It was clarified that drivers with **unrestricted licenses were required for hiring**, and **hiring individuals under 21 was uncommon**. Those hired in this age group would initially be assigned to running water for six months.

The City of Amarillo mentioned that they were currently facing a shortage of 14 bus drivers. They discussed the possibility of **offering short-term courses to address this shortage** and also expressed the **need for heavy equipment operators, considering in-house training options and cooperation with AC for training**.

**Skywrite highlighted their requirement of two years of over-the-road experience for potential hires**. Alternatively, they offered **a six-month apprenticeship for candidates** without the required experience, subject to insurance approval. Focus on electrical expertise was emphasized for initial work.

Tony elaborated on the **plan to double the program's size**, including the addition of instructors and rapid training options. He also expressed the intention to offer safety classes to industry partners. Consideration of night and weekend classes was also mentioned.

Ryan brought up the concept of Grad Leaders and discussed employer match and key work skills. The group engaged in a conversation about how to align transportation program offerings with the needs of employers.

The topic of hiring ex-felons was discussed. The City of Amarillo stated that they were open to hiring ex-felons, while **Bruckner expressed reluctance, especially in cases involving assault charges**. T-Miller mentioned that (Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation) **TDLR would not issue licenses to ex-felons**, impacting their hiring possibilities.

**One attendee shared positive experiences with hiring ex-felons**, stating that 80% of employers in their Lubbock office were ex-felons who were responsible, professional, and supportive of each other.

Coordination for student start dates was discussed, considering the two-week wait time from application to hire.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. Additionally, T-Miller shared a restriction related to towing electric vehicles, highlighting the need to wait two weeks after a wreck involving such vehicles.

The meeting concluded with Linda's closing remarks.

**[End of Meeting Minutes]**

Adjourn: 1:20PM

**Items to follow up on:**

1. Program changes and expansion, including new coordinator and simulator purchase.
2. Hiring apprentices under 21 - criteria and frequency.
3. Shortage of bus drivers and heavy equipment operators - explore collaborations.
4. Experience and licensing requirements for different positions.
5. Program capacity expansion and rapid training options.
6. Safety classes for industry partners - identify needs and potential partners.
7. Aligning programs with employer needs and key work skills.
8. Hiring ex-felons - policies and support.
9. Positive impact of ex-felons in the workplace - gather more insights.
10. Coordination for student start dates - streamline the process.
11. Towing electric vehicles - clarify TDLR regulations.

*Jonas Diaz*

Coordinator

02/19/2024

*David Hall*

Dean of Technical Education

02/16/2024