January 29, 2020

Dear Mr. Fife:

Tri-County Technical and Weyerhaeuser Corp. are in the second year of our partnership to get some of our Commercial Truck Driving students to consider a career as drivers for the logging industry. Class A drivers are needed in almost every industry but now in Maine and in particular Forest Industry the need is more resounding as retirements become increasingly prevalent. Five students who received their Class A’s enrolled in the program last spring and are currently working with Mark Niles – a 40 year career as a logging truck driver who is on Weyerhaeuser’s payroll. He is on loan to us every other day and takes these (5) five trainees out to wood lots to observe harvesting, loading and mill deliveries. The students have actually moved loads to local mills and processing plants as they gain experience driving and handling this type of cargo.

The plan this year is to continue training on logging roads with loads in various weather related conditions and get some experience loading at yards. In this segment of the training we are in the process of getting the students their CLP’s. Tri-County Technical Center is very grateful for getting a $20,000.00 grant from Weyerhaeuser Foundation, the loaned log carrier from Carrier Logging, Bouchard Trucking, (for donating a “headache rack”), generous support from MFPC members, including Pallet One, Pleasant River Lumber and Seven Islands.

We continue to move this agenda at Tri-County Technical Center and also with PVAEC- the Regional Adult Ed provider run by Thelma Regan who has been very active with the Department of Labor in possibly adding an on the job apprenticeship components to our efforts.

Lots of time and dedication chaired by John Fogarty and planning members continue to move this agenda for CDL drivers becomes more evident. We are hopeful that the current partnership will continue and more folks in need of these trained drivers to join the cause.

Sincerely,

Patrick H. O’Neill, Ed. D.
TCTC Director
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TCTC Director

Serving students from Dexter Regional High School, Foxcroft Academy, Greenville High School, Nokomis Regional High School, Penquis Valley High School, and Piscataquis Community Secondary School

“Where six become one in preparing our youth for tomorrow’s challenges”