



equipment. Dean noted that this is a priority for the College as well and will continue to explore opportunities with this in mind.

- iii. The department intends to explore opportunities with AED Foundation during summer or fall 2024.

B. "REV UP" Electric Vehicle (EV) Electrification Grant: F

- i. In December, the College applied for and was awarded a \$525,000 grant through the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to support faculty training, updated curriculum, and equipment acquisition in the areas of heavy-duty vehicle electrification. The college is one of three heavy duty programs approved for this grant in the state.
- ii. Gratitude expressed to CIT Trucks, Rockford Mass Transit, and West Side Tractor for their commitment of support of the College grant application. Educational partner support also provided by the KEC and the Northern Kane County Regional Vocational Technical Center who received permission from Elgin Community College to work with Kishwaukee on dual credit pathway opportunities with Kish.
- iii. Comments from the committee include the importance of safety training for electrified vehicles, exploration of a heavy-duty electric vehicle charger installed in the diesel lab, and commitments to recommend industry training opportunities to department faculty.

III. Employer Feedback & Discussion

A. Spring 2024 Interview Day Feedback

- i. Employers shared that students were well prepared and thanked Kishwaukee College. Employers noted improvement in student soft skills since COVID.
- ii. Next year students will be instructed to prepare employer questions and research the companies they choose to interview with.
- iii. Some employers suggested spreading out the event so that interview participants are not distracted by noise.
- iv. Employers suggested next spring Advisory committee begin at 12:30pm (rather than noon) to allow time for lunch, pack up, tour, etc.

B. Industry Trends, Training, Equipment

- i. Electrification in Industry
 1. Employers suggested safety training for electrification.
 2. Employers suggested basic wiring electrical system training.
 3. Employers shared that manufacturers provide support and encouraged the college to utilize the training provided.
 4. Employers shared that with electrification there is no rebuilding of parts; only diagnosing to replace parts with a new part.

5. Safety apparel for the students is mandatory. The gloves students will need expire every six months whether they have been used or are new.
 - ii. Employers shared that electrical and hydraulics training is needed for the newest candidates entering the career field.
- C. Truck Driver Training
- i. Kishwaukee Truck Driver Training program transitioned under the Business and Technical Education division as of January 2024.
 - ii. Diesel Power Technology graduates with a valid CDL are highly valued as applicants in the industry.
 - iii. The committee is excited for new opportunities for collaboration between Diesel Power and Truck Driver Training programs and are willing to serve on the Truck Driver Training advisory committee in fall 2024 to brainstorm contract training opportunities.
 - iv. The College applied for a Noncredit Workforce Grant through ICCB. A portion of the grant will explore opportunities for Truck Driver Training students to more easily transition to Diesel Power Technology program in the future.
- D. Other & Industry Update
- i. There is high demand for trained Diesel Technicians in the industry. Many employers commended Kishwaukee College graduates and their preparedness in the field.