NPC Automotive Technology Advisory Committee

September 23, 2015

Present: **Frank Pinnell**, NPC Automotive and Welding Department Chair; **Cyli Geisler**, NPC Auto Lab aide; **Sam Harris**, NPC Automotive Faculty; **Lisa Aragon**, NAVIT; **Ross Langteau** **& Sheila Langteau**, Carquest; **Steve Moore**, NPC Automotive Faculty; **Jose Alvarez**, Alvarez Auto Center, Inc.; **Nathan Williams**, Williams Brothers; **Eric Ergkine**, Hatch Toyota; **Don Butler**, NAVIT; **Joe Carlisle**, NPC Auto student/Lab Aide; **Bruce Bergsdreser**, Performance Auto & 4x4; **Ted Lorona**, NAPA; **Joe Carlisle,** Lab aide/student

Welcome/Introductions: Frank welcomed participants. Frank noted that Peggy gives her regrets for not being here tonight.

Approval of the Minutes from November 3, 2014: Minutes were approved.

**Summer/Fall Class Update:**

Sam noted Auto had a one month Summer class with 12 students registered and retained a lot of those students for Fall semester. The two day classes in Fall are full and have a waiting list. Night class has seven enrolled. Enrollment has grown in the last two years.

**New Equipment/Cars:**

Frank noted the purchase of three newer vehicles (08) and (09) from Hatch Toyota. Students now have more current vehicles to be working on. The department is hoping to get (05), (06) or (07) diesel vehicle two or four wheel drive would be great. Students can get a better understanding of diesel technology. It would be great to get a chassis and drivetrain stick a steer wheeling and seat in it and a motor. Students could study alignments and understand the telemetry of the steering works.

Sam asked for industry input on an alignment machine, we have the rack.

Horne and Hatch are using Hunters.

Sam noted he wanted the students to be trained on what industry is using, so they are ready when they walk in the door. The Elite allows student to do everything by themselves, it’s is a self-calibrating system. A trained tech can have the readings on the screen in five minutes. It comes with a simulator to help as a training aid. Hunter provides the alignment machine for SkillsUSA for State and Nationals.

Frank asked for input on the alignment machine purchase, so they are buying what is best for the students.

Jose mentioned he is looking into a Hunter for 40,000.

Sam noted the system their looking at is upgradable between the next five or six years.

Q. You can use that alignment in any stall whether it is level or not? A. Yes, it calibrates to the vehicle not the floor. It was clarified that cannot do alignment, but an alignment check.

Sam mentioned the new laptops. Students sign-on to the software and get to carry the laptop out to the car their working on.

**Industry Update:**

**Carquest:**

Ross would like students to have computer experience to use students on the counter, and clean driving record. Sheila mentioned clean drug testing. There a lot of changes with Carquest including a name change.

Lisa mentioned few students have a clean driving record.

**Hatch Toyota:**

Eric sees the challenges with the techs every day such as recalls, product knowledge, test training and rapid changes. Techs need to start somewhere. I find it’s hard to keep the techs enthused with all the recalls, warranty work and customer based. Most techs are bumper to bumper. We have a few specialty techs. Toyota is coming out with a hydrogen vehicle before the end of the year starting in California. Q. Do you have a program other than automotive technicians, have any of your students asked about parts or service? A. We are working on curriculum on the diesel side first. Then we need to work on parts and service.

**Performance Auto & 4x4:**

Bruce stressed the techs need to be responsible. Technology can be learned, but attitude of the techs they need to act appropriately.

Sam: We push the students about their driving record, credit report and social media. The students need to know these things can affect them in the future. Adults have the same problem. We have a great group of kids this semester, they are working on electrical right now.

**Snap-On:**

Bruce noted diagnostics are lacking up here on the mountain and the hole in that is EVAP. Q. Do you teach that here? A. Yes, we have a smoke machine it builds pressure and makes smoke.

Sam noted it’s old, but it works.

Bruce mentioned the newer smoke machines measure the leak.

**Alvarez Auto Center:**

Jose noted the students should make good decisions, so they’ll have a good life. His towing service requires a driver to have a clean driving record and no criminal record for drugs or theft. You can make a good living from this type of work. He commented on how clean the shop is kept. His philosophy is if you have time to lean you have time to clean.

Sam commented how students are using floor mats, and steering and seat covers from suggestions from past meetings.

Frank mentioned students keeping their records clean for background checks. He also encouraged board members to come spend some time with the students. You can speak to the students and let them hear your experiences and tell them how a bad background can affect them in life. Shop owners can help reinforce the importance of a clean record. You are our best tool!

Sam mentioned you need to share *you pay for what you break*. Students need to hear these things from shop owners, so they will believe it.

Ted wanted to know if Auto recruited to bring up enrollment. Sam responded the Career fair in Snowflake recruited quite a few.

Frank noted it is because of the instructor Sam. When you get the right instructor who cares about their program, word of mouth gets around and enrollment goes up.

Lisa added a program is only as good as the instructor. He is engaged with the student.

Ted noted student’s expectations are not always realistic. They need to understand you start at the bottom and work your way up.

Ted wanted to know if you teach students to interview.

Sam mentioned Ann Hilliard comes here every semester and spends two days on resume writing. Students speak in front of their peers to help prepare them for interviews.

Ted asked if it was possible to make this shop an ASC location.

Sam noted they find schools without an automotive program. Globe and Flagstaff have locations that have ASC locations.

Nathan mentioned he has seen a lot of activity in the night classes since Sam and Steve have been here. A lot of students graduate and do not have the desire to start at the entry level jobs because of the pay.

Frank noted that you might need to donate your time to if you want to start at a particular shop, especially if they have no openings. Show them what type of person who you are first.

Joe Carlisle noted Sam is a great instructor. He sees the program changing to produce a better student.

Sam added that he is concentrating on curriculum and listening to what the dealerships and shop owners are saying.

Cyli noted Sam is amazing. They have a great bunch of students who put their minds into everything they do. In seven years, this semester is an outstanding group of students.

Sam mentioned you can come watch the students. If you like a particular student, you can have them job shadow you.

Steve noted they are trying to instill what you want in a professional technician. Teaching them integrity, cleanliness, and lack of cussing. Sam is a great teacher. Techs are always learning, they work on commission and are always watching the clock. They face a lot of challenges.

Lisa thanked everyone for their time and input to make Auto an incredible program. The program is so good because of Frank and Sam.

Frank spoke about SkillsUSA. SkillsUSA is a hands-on competition at the college and high school level. It is the strongest student organization in our nation. The college and NAVIT have participated the last 14 years and Auto about 8 years. We take the top students to participate at the Regionals. It gets narrowed down to taking three students to State. If you win at State you go onto to Nationals. NPC and NAVIT are going to host the Regionals this year. This facility will host Automotive. Holbrook will host Welding and Construction. Show Low will host Cosmetology. I have a meeting deciding on the date it will probably be on a Friday or a Saturday at the end of January or beginning of February. In the past, instructors have help set up and run the Regionals that has hurt northern Arizona area. At the State level, industry partners and outside the industry help set up and run the competition. So the Regionals are fair and equal this year. We need our industry partners to help set up and donate prizes for students. The students do not expect prizes, but it would be nice.

Sam would like to set up a guideline and have people from industry set up the tests at the different stations.

We will have forty plus students to help. Bruce, Ted and Sheila all volunteered to help.

Frank thanked everyone for coming!

Frank picked a date for the next meeting. It will be a combo advisory/prep for Skills meeting, January 13, 2016 at 5:30p.