

NPC AUTOMOTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

NOVEMBER 30, 2023 5:30pm

AT THE SKILLS CENTER. 1001 W Deuce of clubs Show low Az

Minutes: Jeanette Hancock

Host: Sammy Harris

Attendance: Jeremy Raisor, Sammy Harris, Jeanette Hancock, Wes King, Frank Pinnell, Cyli Geisler, Molly Stradling, Don Butler, Shane Holladay, Dan Harris, Darrin Wiant, Mike Claypool, Joe Carlisle, Frank Cabrera, Nathan Williams.

1. Welcome/ Introductions.

Everyone introduced themselves.

2. Update on day and night enrollment.

With the new building we have been able to increase our daytime enrollment considerably. Daytime class is at 32 capacity now, afternoon at 18.

Night classes are pretty full for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights. Hoping that will increase next semester and especially next year.

3. Updates on the new skill center.

Frank and Sammy gave the update. Skills Center is done here. At the beginning of this week we have a permanent occupancy license (contractors still fixing a few things). Building houses ATO, WLD, EIT, and Maintenance. Happy to give a tour afterwards. The automotive shop has some nice new lifts. There is a really cool heating and AC system, but still needs to be fine-tuned. Exhaust system and ventilation system is really good. The welding side is beyond good.

4. Talk about plans for job shadowing/apprentice program

The two people that we wanted to be here and talk about it were not able to attend. What we are wanting to attempt to do is students in the 4th semester would be able to work with certain dealership mechanics as part of their lab (Horne, Hatch, and Subaru are on board with this). They would work with their service managers on different aspects. It would also give the dealerships an opportunity to see their work. We already have had some good luck with that.

Toyota came in and offered an apprentice program for when our students complete our program. If they work for Toyota and stay with Toyota for 1 year they will get to keep the tool box and tools they gave them when they started. That is a huge expense to get started. It also is great for students to be able to work for a year and get their own tools. This is one of the few professions you have to have (a full toolbox) to be able to work. Another dealership is thinking of doing something similar.

5. Industry Updates-Industry members time to report

Darrin Wiant talked about the last meeting and talking about the electric vehicles. So, Jeremy shared that we were approached by the statewide group of community colleges to see if we were interested in pursuing a grant for electric vehicles and incorporating that into our program. We went ahead and signed up as one of the partners for that grant. We will find that out in March if we get the grant. Then would work on purchasing equipment and getting training for the electric vehicles and slowly roll that out into the program. Another thing we are looking into is expanding the automotive program to the north side of the county, possibly in Holbrook. We do not know yet on this or all the specifics but we are looking into that. If that is going to happen we will be sure to let this group know. They believe there is a lot of interest there on the I-40. Don asked about charging stations on campus and Jeremy said that was part of the grant as well as a bunch of electric equipment. Frank said the grant does have that element but also our administrators are looking at putting charging stations at some locations.

Sammy pointed out that everything in your current toolbox is obsolete when it comes to EVs (Electric Vehicles). So, they would need the special tools.

Sammy said a lot of new diesels are coming in the shop.

He does not think as an industry we will see diesels hanging in there as much as the have in the past because of emissions.

Shane asked about GPF on some makes. Some discussion on how those would work.

Sammy pointed out that everything is going EV and hybrid.

Sammy doesn't think there is as much pushback against EVs up here as lack of infrastructure.

Jeremy shared that NPC also applied for funding to start a CDL truck driving program. We were approved for that funding. Looking at Holbrook as a home base for that. That program is fairly mobile so may be able to serve more communities. Jeremy said they have been hearing for years that there is a need for that and that training. Looking to roll that out in fall 2024 if we are able to purchase all the equipment and get it all set. Jeremy said maintenance was budgeted into the operations funds.

Frank said we may have a line on a faculty but if anyone knows of someone that might be interested we might be looking.

Shane asked what was required and they said just a CDL and a lot of experience.

Comes with a simulator, 2 trucks, and a school bus. Mike said that a lot of companies pay for your CDL and then require you to work for them for several years. He said there is a desperate need for CDL drivers.

Frank said that there is a lot of businesses around here that need it like the forest service. Frank thinks that the first couple of semesters will be packed.

Mike says this is a big area for CDL drivers, and Holbrook and Winslow have I-40.

Shane said there is new requirements to get a CDL now.

Sammy said probably the biggest problem is passing the inspection.

Biggest training to the industry is the computerized log books.

6. Updates on how team teaching is going.

That means that we have started a morning class with 2 instructors, Sammy and Don Butler. They also have a good support of aides. Sammy says it has been going really good. Don does a lot of the gradebook stuff and keeps in contact with the students on their grades. Shop time/labs everyone helps. Sammy says that it has been going well and is looking forward to getting the afternoons that busy.

Shane asked if automotive comes to Holbrook would Sammy be over it. Sammy explained that there would be another instructor but Sammy and Wes would be co-chairs.

7. Date for next meeting.

Next meeting will be May 8, 2024. Sammy will check with industry partners that could not make it to finalize a time.