

# Automotive Advisory Board Meeting

## Minutes

9/19/2024

Northland Pioneer College Automotive  
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5:30-6:30pm

**Minutes:** Jeanette Hancock

**Attendance:** Jeanette Hancock, Jeremy Raisor, Sammy Harris, Frank Pinnell, Wes King, Cyli Geisler, Dan Harris, Michael Claypool, Darrin Wiant, Don Butler, James Bejarano, David Tomkins, Jason Stradling, Craig Boston, Gary Altrads, Mike Cherry, Robert Jones, Craig Hedman, Jim Sutton, Will Gray, Chris Fawcett, Michael Terry, Frank Cabrera, Ken Conrad, Allan Jenson.

### 1. Welcome & Introductions –

Sammy introduced his lab aides and went around the room to have the industry partners introduce themselves. Sammy conducted the meeting.

### 2. Industry Updates – Industry members

Went around the room and asked each industry member to give any industry needs, employment prospects, and industry innovations that are happening.

- Electric Vehicles was a big topic and something everyone is preparing for and becoming more needed. Electric is changing and is going to be a big part of industry. They are getting ready for different CAN lines and CAN lines have changed to flexible data.
- **The CAN system of the electric/hybrid power automobile comprises a CAN bus structure and a plurality of electric control units (ECU) of the electric/hybrid power automobile**
- The electrical is very interesting with a lot of cool technology coming out. Right now coming down the pipeline is an EFB (Enhanced Flooded Battery).
- Students need to know electric basics. Ford/Ace training is the best for electrical. Need to get students to the ACE Online training program if hours permitted.
- **The Ford Automotive Career Exploration (ACE) program is a dealer-sponsored program.**
- Definitely have some hiring openings for students from several different industry members.
- Some industry members are using laptops to do more of their automotive needs with the laptops handling the digital aspects.
- Students need to learn proper Diagnosis instead of using the actual Diagnosis trees. Sammy pointed out that on all repairs he has his students do all the data and find the issue.
- Students need to understand how to diagnose and why a part has failed and what it should do. Would like students to learn and understand at each step what is going on. Some of

that comes with experience. Sammy said that he has worked on theory with his students. For example, they go over how a brake system functions and that gives them a basis for most brake systems.

- Students need to know all of the basics including: oil changes, brake changes, fluid exchanges, alignments, steering and suspension components.
- The THINK BIG program is very successful and looking to add another shift and will double in size. They offer an apprenticeship program for high school students. Sammy pointed out that they have a good majority of students that want to go into heavy equipment.

**3. ASE-Re-Accreditation** – Frank Pinnell. This is an ASE certified training facility. With that comes accreditations. Our automotive program goes through reaccreditation every 5 years with a lot of documentation. We applied for it a couple of months ago. Frank has been working with the individual coming to do the reaccreditations and he will come in person probably in November. Three of our local industry partners will work with him on the day he comes. These Advisory Board meetings are important to help Sammy and Don to teach students what is current, to help us get the right equipment, and to help with these recertifications.

**4. Enrollment** – Frank explained that Matt Weber from our NAVIT program could not be here but said that we are at max capacity, with 40 students in the morning and 36 in the afternoon, which is record numbers. We even have students on a waiting list. All three of the night classes are at the top of their enrollment levels. We are still working on the facility in Holbrook and hoping to start the Holbrook Automotive program in fall 2025. Will need to hire an instructor for Holbrook. Have had a lot of interest for Holbrook. Our high school seniors will graduate in May and next semester we will do an internship again and will have 5-6 students that we let go out in industry. Sammy encouraged anyone looking for help for 2-3 days a week for a few hours to let him know.

**5. Vehicle donations** – Sammy explained that they do not take a lot of donations. When we took this program over we had 25 cars out in the backyard and only one ran. The rest were well beyond use for our students. So, as a result we have gotten picky on what we take. James said they will be getting a 2023 Equinox Trax. For donations we will have to follow the process through our NPC Friends and Family donation. We will do that to make sure that all the documentation is done correctly. The ASE guidelines is to have vehicles the students are working on that are 5 years old or newer. Another benefit of ASE accreditation is they can down donate vehicles.

**6. E-learning-to Discuss and approve** – Most students spend 4 semesters that are day students, nighttime requires 1200 hours of contact time. They must document e-learning. CDX is the online curriculum that is currently used. It is a great tool for ASE testing and for the knowledge students need to learn. Students are required to spend so many hours each week doing their e-learning and usually do some of that at home so they can do more hands-on learning while here at the shop. Frank asked for everyone's thoughts. The CDX program should help students to learn the software that you have. We also use AllData (go to service manual). In ALLData students can look up any vehicle. It is a good program but the CDX walks them

through how to use it and how to navigate it. With that 1200 hours + they are doing an average of about 197 hours in those 4 semesters and passing the tests required for graduation. The reaccreditation is asking for 190 hours.

The Committee agreed that this is good because it makes them accountable. When a student becomes an employee they need to be able to do the job and have some accountability.

Sammy said when they are ending each module they give them a cutoff and most students have to catch up and spend a lot of time that weekend finishing.

Sammy asked if anyone is doing anything like the CDX? One industry partner said that Subaru is 80% e-learning and then have to go to Ontario to get credit.

Dean Jeremy Raisor said that the college has a few different things going on.

- One program we have starting up here at the end of fall is a CDL program and it will be in Holbrook and under the automotive umbrella. It is a big unmet need to train truck drivers locally. Also teaching the passenger side for school bus certification. If anyone knows anyone that could teach that CDL class they need to get on the NPC website and apply.
- Some other happenings at NPC include a floor covering and installation program, construction with expansion to better provide student services, construction project in Holbrook that will allow us to start the Automotive program. For the automotive program we will be converting an existing space to accommodate a separate NAVIT and evening program and will need to hire an instructor in Holbrook.
- The college just had their HLC review that they did this summer and everything went well with that. Next time we will be reviewed is in 6 years and we will be including one extra report. The only thing they wanted was that we align all our processes with our strategic plan.
- The College is currently looking for a new college president. Hoping to have that person in place in January.

**7. Self-Evaluation by Members** – Faculty evaluation checklists. Tour the shop and make sure that everything is in place. Lab aides and assistants will help you find anything. Turn in forms to Frank.

## **NPC Provides, Supports, and Promotes Lifelong Learning**