

Automotive Technology
Automotive Collision Repair Technology
Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2015
IVC Campus, Building 9, Room 101
5:30 pm

Present: Michael Gonzalez, Gomez Automotive; Art Yee, Excelsior Auto Clinic; Ron Palmer, Career Education Department Chair; Dave Maffei, PG&E; Mike Grant, MCOE; Nanda Schorske, College of Marin, IVC Executive Dean of Workforce and Economic Development; Rhody Ringrose, Rhoadwork; Nick Fara, COM Automotive Instructor; Kathy Takemoto, Grants Specialist; Julie Oyle, Administrative Assistant for Career Education.

1. Welcome - Ron Palmer welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.
2. Enrollment Update - Kathy Takemoto gave the advisory committee information on numbers of high school students articulating COM courses, numbers of students who have earned articulated credit, number of students enrolled in CTE classes, and numbers of students who have earned certificates and/or degrees in the AUTO and ACRT programs. Kathy also gave members copies of the Pathway Progress Sheets that we distribute to students to help them attain their goals and schedule their classes.

Kathy also informed the members about the Employer Survey that she will be sending out, we need input from all members so that we can find out what industry needs from our graduates. It is also a requirement of NATEF which we should be ready to request certification in the fall.

3. Updates from Dean - Nanda Schorske talked about the high school courses that are articulated with COM which means that the students receive high school credit and if they pass with a "B" or higher they also receive college credit.

Nanda talked about the CTE monies that have been allocated by the Chancellors Office. Monies are available for CTE programs that have a gap in training opportunities. AUTO does not have a gap. ACRT has a gap so we have been able to secure funds to help us improve the ACRT program. We have been purchasing tools/equipment necessary for our NATEF certification.

We are planning to use CTE funds for purchasing tools necessary and tool boards from the CTE Enhancement funds.

Countertops - The District has finally approved the purchase of stainless steel countertops for the shop. Bids were solicited and a purchase has been send to the vendor who won the bid. We look forward to this work happening between the Summer and Fall semesters.

Automotive Computers - Nanda and Ron talked about the AUTO computers being up and running with software the students can access. There are some difficulties using some of the software at a school as opposed to a shop environment. There are issues with firewalls and security that the school needs to deal with so that our student information is secure.

Nanda gave everyone information on our new liability waiver for work done on vehicles. We found that there was no standard at schools. We put together a waiver, had our legal counsel work extensively to make sure we have a good model.

4. NATEF Certification - Ron Palmer reviewed the next steps in our NATEF certification. After we have the countertops installed and the tool boards ordered and installed, we need to put together a self-study team that will review our shops with the same criteria that NATEF will use. The self-study team will provide recommendations for COM. When we remediate the recommendations, we will then request NATEF certification. Ron as visited College of the Redwood shop which is NATEF certified. He indicated that it was a nice clean, but much smaller shop than COM.

5. Updates –

Rhody Ringrose - gave an overview on how he sees the industry changing. Lots of direct repair facilities. He sees the insurance industry gaining more and more power. Shops need to find out how to make the system work for you.

Mike Gomez - Newer techs seem to get more information from scanners instead of experience. He has talked to all the tool reps and they indicate the business is slow, but Mike is busy. Our need to educate the public is an ongoing process. They need to be aware of the new technology used to diagnose repairs, and how imperfect the systems can be. He is always looking for someone that has "oil running through their veins". He feels that skill, creativity and imagination are the keys to valuable employees. We need to remind students that it is imperative that they have a good driving record if they wish to pursue a career in the automotive technology fields. Students should be made aware of how important it is for them to do a good job when repairing vehicles, it could be dangerous to operate a vehicle that is not repaired correctly.

Art Yee - It seems that dealers are taking a lot more of the business from independent shops. Some of the newer techs know a lot about the newer scan tools, but are not as well versed in the actual mechanics of the repairs. Computer diagnosis could be dangerous to customers. It's like you trying to look at your own x-ray.

Dave Maffei - PG&E is not in competition with anyone. They have hired a lot of mechanics. Most mechanics have to go through a rigorous interview process. They are really looking for a "jack of all trades". Employees need good diagnosis skills, then we will add airbrakes and hydraulics to their knowledge base. He is also looking for mechanics which "bleed motor oil". When PG&E hires new mechanics, they work mostly in the evenings.

6. Employer Survey - Please make sure you fill out and return the employer survey. It is required for CTE programs and for NATEF certification. We need to know what you want training/knowledge your future employees will need.
7. Greg Nelson – stopped in and the committee thanked him for getting the countertops in process.
8. Adjourned at 7:15 pm

Submitted by Julie Oyle
Administrative Assistant