

AUTOMOTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10/16/2025

NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE AUTOMOTIVE

1001 W Deuce of clubs, Show Low AZ

5:30 Pm 6:30 pm

Dinner is provided

Attendees: Sammy Harris, James Bejarano, Adam Martin, Jonelle Sinclair, Lauren Bakken, Don Butler, Michael Claypool, Michelle Russell, Frank Cabrera, Aunika Ranstrom, Owen Riima, Spencer Welch, Sam Romine, Garrett Goodrich, Andrew Farr, Wesley King, Steven Brown, Daniel Harris, Joe Carlisle, Will Gray, Cylie Geisler

1. Welcome & Introduction, & Approve and review last meeting

- Sammy Harris opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Introductions were made by all present, including instructors, industry partners, and representatives from local businesses such as O'Reilly Auto Parts, CarQuest, and Caterpillar.
- Sammy Harris (Automotive Instructor), and Don Butler (Co-Instructor), shared their experience and appreciation for ongoing industry collaboration.

2. Industry updates-Industry Member, industry needs, Employment prospects, Industry innovations.

- Copies of the previous meeting minutes were distributed.
- Motion to approve May minutes by Wesley King, second by Aunika Ranstrom.
- Minutes approved unanimously.

Industry partners discussed challenges with entry-level technicians, including:

- Limited initiative and problem-solving confidence among new graduates.
- Difficulty interpreting diagnostic data and overreliance on automated systems.
- Gaps in understanding basic mechanical concepts and terminology.

Employers emphasized the importance of:

- Reinforcing foundational skills and workplace professionalism.
- Encouraging hands-on initiative and communication with supervisors.
- Clarifying entry-level expectations (e.g., beginning on the lube rack, gradual pay increases).
- Industry consensus: new graduates should focus on fundamentals, reliability, and continuous learning.

3. How the ASE Re-accreditations is going

- Adjustments were made to align lab work with realistic skill levels and build confidence through achievable diagnostics.
- The program successfully renewed its Master ASE accreditation for another five years.
- Appreciation extended to those who participated in the review process.
- Transition plans discussed for future leadership in maintaining accreditation.

4. Enrollment

- Numbers remain strong across all campuses.
- Recruitment efforts continue through local career fairs and school expos at Blue Ridge and Show Low.

5. Vehicle donations

- Vehicle donations remain steady; most recent contribution from Horne Automotive.
- Mike Terry (ASE Southwest) is revising the regional donation program, which should result in access to newer model vehicles in the near future.

6. E-learning to discuss and approve

- Program uses CDX e-learning, allowing students to complete online coursework from any location.
- Students are required to complete 4–6 hours weekly.
- Advisory board approved continued use of CDX Online for the program.

7. Self- Evaluation Document maintenance concerns or needed updates by members. Equipment, Tools, Safety

- Student evaluations were circulated for review.
- Discussion held regarding equipment, tool maintenance, and

safety updates.

- Members noted ongoing efforts to align lab work with ASE standards and reinforce electrical diagnostic training.

8. Updates on Holbrook Auto shop

- Progress at the Holbrook shop is now fully operational with new diagnostic equipment.
- Students range in skill level but show strong enthusiasm for learning.
- Upcoming participation in the NHRA Pit Crew competition: team practices are underway.

9. How Skills went (Nationals)

College achieved outstanding results:

- Automotive student placed 23rd nationally in his category (first-year competitor).
- Welding team swept regional and state competitions, earning multiple medals at nationals.

Programs will continue promoting student participation and skill development.

10. Update on Budget

- Budget is stable; tool and supply lines remain in good standing.
- NAVIT partnership provided over \$400,000 in new tools and equipment, strengthening instructional capacity.

11. Recommendations for Tasks or skills we need to include in the curriculum.

Employers recommended reinforcing:

- Electrical and diagnostic training.
- Communication and soft skills.
- Understanding of real-world expectations and accountability in the workplace.

Discussion on balancing advanced diagnostic exposure with achievable lab exercises to maintain confidence.

12. Open discussion

- Members addressed the impact of social media misinformation and unrealistic trade expectations.

- Encouraged continued collaboration between educators and industry to support student motivation and accurate career outlooks.

Schedule next meeting (Ask for industry contact names to join Advisory committee)

- Next Advisory Board Meeting: May 2026
- Planned in conjunction with Student Completion Ceremony to celebrate program achievements.

Adjournment:

Meeting concluded with appreciation for all industry partners and faculty for their ongoing commitment to student success and program quality.