

# AUTOMOTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Minutes

05/07/2025

NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE AUTOMOTIVE

1001 W Deuce of Clubs, Show Low Az

5:30 - 6:30 pm

Dinner provided

Minutes: Jeanette Hancock

**Attendance:** Wes King, Sammy Harris, Jeanette Hancock, Jason Stradling, Joe Carlisle, Cyli Geisler, Darrin Wiant, Matt Weber, Joel Bloomstone, Mike Claypool, Bree McCullough, David Tomkins, Aanika Ranstrom, Tyson Threadgill, Trevor Gates, Daniel Harris, Robert Jones, James Nosek, Don Butler, Frank Cabrera, Adam Martin.

- 1. Welcome & Introduction.** Sammy started the meeting and had everyone introduce themselves.
  - **Sammy handed out student evaluations to advisory board members to read.**
- 2. Industry updates-Industry Member, industry needs, Employment prospects, Industry innovations**
  - EV has slowed down. Next year maybe hydrogen but does not know. Ford is still pushing a lot and a lot of driver automated systems, self-driving, blue cruise, etc.
  - Sammy said he is seeing a reduction in the ability of young people able to drive.
  - Talent is in demand. Put out an ad for an entry level technician and received a lot of applicants with no experience. Hoping to get someone

from this program that already has some knowledge, especially in diagnostic work.

- Sammy said even finding out that their good techs that if it is something they have not seen before they hit a roadblock. Sammy said he has turned up the troubleshooting tree with the students, and asks them multiple questions to try and resolve issues. Every manufacturer puts out a troubleshooting tree. Darrin said we have listened to industry partners to try and use the diagnostic trees and resources they have at hand which is a big learning curve for many. It is hard for them coming out of school when the book was not correct. Sammy said that they are asking the students the question of cause and effect of what does this and why? So, one component does not function also look at what is it connected to. What is the common denominator? Sammy said that sometimes we cause that because we are showing advanced technology and not showing the basics. It is covered in their second semester in the basic engine module.
- Sammy asked the industry partners what they would like to see coming out of this program? He said he will not send them a tech.
- Sammy pointed out we have always heard diagnostic and electrical are what is needed.
- Other skills they would like are that the students/employees be trainable, on time, and have those soft skills.
- A question was asked on how much diesel training is in the program and Sammy responded that very little diesel because it is so deep. Teaching it but it is an abbreviated class.
- Sammy pointed out that he has quite a few Seniors graduating this month. Sammy told the industry partners to reach out to him if they are looking for somebody and he will send them their way. Sammy has some students that have a strong passion for automotive. Also, to contact him about any of his students that apply for a job and Sammy said he would be very honest about each student.

### **3. How the ASE Re-accreditations is going**

- Almost there. Just has a few things to get that done. And then will be done for 5 more years. All the industry partners helped with that.

### **4. Enrollment**

- For the fall semester we currently have 37 signed up for morning class and 18 in the afternoon, and just opened up more spots in the afternoon.
- Will also be offering Automotive classes at PDC in Holbrook.
- Summer class – Don Butler is teaching 3 weeks in June and Sammy Harris will teach in July.

### **5. Vehicle donations**

- Received a vehicle donation from GM Horne, a low mileage Equinox. It is great addition for students to work with.

### **6. E-learning to discuss and approve**

- CDX book is the e-learning. Now the students are required to do 5 hours a week of e-learning at home. Mr. Butler has the ability to monitor how much time they work on the e-learning.

### **7. Self- Evaluation by members**

- Asked 5 industry members to go look around the shop and confirm that this shop has all the items it should have.

## **8. Updates on Holbrook Auto shop**

### **Updates on CDL program.**

- Holbrook Automotive will start July 29<sup>th</sup>. Will start putting lifts up on 5/27/25 and then will be putting it together in June. Sammy invited all industry partners to come look at the PDC Automotive shop when it is set up and give input.
- CDL program is based out of Holbrook. Right now, trying to get all licenses and certificates from the state and then turn it over to the federal before we can get certified and start the program. We currently have one instructor certified and we have another potential instructor coming in next week for a sit down. Lots of local companies want this program to help their employees get their CDL. This program has a nice new simulator for training.

## **9. How Skills went Regionals and State**

- Sammy pointed out that he had 9 students go to State Skills and 1 received Gold and is going to Nationals.

### **Schedule next meeting**

- The consensus was that evenings work best and to not schedule until everyone returns for the fall semester.

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