



AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Skyline College, Building 10 - Room 10-004 Thursday, March 14, 2013 Time: 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Lunch started at 11:30 a.m. The meeting started at 11:50 a.m.

1) Lunch and Introductions

Advisory Members:

Nef Castro
Patrick Chand
Ray Chin
Dan D'Amico
Jon Fowkes

Dave Goo
Zim Gwee
Kirk Korenko
Michael McKee

Skyline Staff:

Tom Broxholm
Rick Escalambre
Julia Johnson
Dan Ming

Clydie Rizzo
Paul Spakowski
Kevin Sullivan
Ed Yee

Everyone introduced themselves and Rick thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

2) Review of Agenda – Rick Escalambre

Our program has had 8 million dollars put into it in the last four years and we are busting at the seams. You would think that our future is secure. Rick brought everyone's attention to an email he received about the closing of 11 full time vocational programs at Long Beach Community College. Welding, Aviation, Automotive, Auto Body, and Carpentry are among the programs scheduled to be closed June 2013. The facilities for these programs were improved in 2009 to the tune of 7.9 million dollars. These Vocational Education Programs have been eliminated even after extensive money was put into the programs. The trend is to have Technical training go to private training facilities. The memo stated that the college will be adding more Math and English classes with the money saved from closing the programs. The State is pushing transferring to 4 years colleges. This is an indication of the importance the State of California's Chancellor office places on Career Technical Education.

3) Update Advisory Board Member Information

Rick asked the members to verify their information on the list circulating the room and make any corrections needed.

4) Program Overview – Rick Escalambre

A. Enrollment & Fees (District is in Basic Aide)

The per unit fee is now \$46. At 15 units as semester this is a lot of money for our students. As a Basic Aide district our funding makes us economically strong. Our money comes from property taxes rather than from the State. We are looking at hiring because of this, we are going to hire a full-time instructor for the position that Julia Johnson is currently doing. This has been done under grants the last few years.

B. Equipment/Tooling

We got \$55,000 for new equipment—laptops, tranny flushers, and a balancer. A bond issue that was passed in California freed up money to buy equipment. This has helped keep our department current and stay a state of the art facility.

C. Partnerships & Vehicles (Honda and KIA)

We still have our partnership with Honda. We have a Maintenance Level Program with them. Julia Johnson is now our lead instructor. As of this summer Ed Yee will get certified by Honda for Electrical to make us a fully certified Maintenance Level Program.

Julia explained the Entry Level Technician Certificate Program. The idea is to give job skills to students who don't plan to go on to college. They also take the Honda Express Lub certificate class. Tom, Rick and Julia said that the Honda class is great training even for those students who get jobs at non-Honda shops. If you need Lub Express technicians contact Julia. She said that she has students who are looking for jobs.

We still have an agreement with KIA. They use our facility a few weeks each year for training and give us cars instead of rent. We got 4 cars this year even though they told us that they aren't going to be using our facility this year. This allows us to stay up with the KIA technology.

As you know, we no longer have a Toyota T-TEN Program. Currently College of Alameda is the only college in the Bay Area with a Toyota program. We hope we can still provide out local Toyota shops with well-trained students.

D. Revision to ASIAN Program –Body Electronics (Body Control Systems)

We have made some revisions to the courses offered in the Asian Program. The electrical class taught is now the same as the class taught in the morning program and no longer called Asian Electrical. The Body Control Systems class replaced Toyota Engines and Transmissions. They are covering some hybrid vehicles in this new Body Control Systems class and the students will get their test only smog license out of the class.

E. Review Basic Tool List and revise as suggested

We have made some changes to our required tools list to help reduce costs for our students. Tom said we originally had lists of very specialized tools for each class. We decided to help hold the cost down further by buying sets of the specialized tools for the classes so instructors can lend them to the students. The list isn't in its final version and still needs some revision. For instance the Adjustable Joint Pliers on the list we know as channel lock pliers. Since the list isn't specific some students come in with channel lock pliers that have handles that are too short. Also, the screw driver set should exclude exchangeable tip sets and specify which type of screw drivers. New students seem to have trouble with flex head ratchets so maybe we should remove them. The plier set should include regular and mini needle nose.

Rick asked if anyone has ideas on this to let us know. Dan said that in his shop he provides the tools for the techs. The set we have now costs \$680 if the student buys it from Dave at Snap-on. The Snap-on list price is \$1594. Dave said originally he was an Automotive Technician and he tries to steer the students to tools they really need as beginners. Dave provides the 9" channel lock pliers in his kits and saves the student \$30. Tom agreed that the 9" would work. Kirk said often techs in entry level positions are not required to bring their own tools because if the employee uses his own tools by law the employer has to pay them double minimum wage. Suggestions for additions were spark plug sockets, torque screw driver set and a standard handle for 3/8" drive ratchet. Kevin argued to keep it small, inexpensive, and only what the student needs to get through the program.

It was agreed that this was a good start. Some thought that tools weren't that important because shops often provide them. Rick asked if anyone had any thoughts later about this to send him an email.

5) Program Review – Rick Escalambre

A. Explain the importance of Program Review and the Advisory Committee's Role

We have to do Program Review every 6 years. It is a bit like NATEF Recertification. It does force us to do some important things.

B. Review and finalize program goals, strengths, and areas of improvement

Rick read our "Program Goals" to the group. He explained that "Transportation Service" was added because we are seeing the students' skills being used in other fields of transportation besides automotive. The group agreed that these were realistic and achievable goals.

Jon Fowkes asked for the addition the word "Apprentice" to #2 in the "Strengths of the Program". He said he would like it to be known that we also have a strong relationship with the Joint Apprentices Council and Apprentices. Rick thanked Jon for the addition. The group agreed with the program strengths.

After hearing the “Suggestions for Improvement” the group approved all of them also. Tom mentioned that the new name of the Business Division should be inserted.

C. Review department courses and degree programs – How do they relate to industry needs

Rick briefly talked about the course list that we provided the group. This is a list from the current catalog of all automotive courses offered. He wanted the group to have a list of everything we teach.

Rick brought the groups attention to the Degree and Certificate page taken from the current catalog. He asked if they would look it over and if they had any changes they would like to see. Also, currently it is hard to get a teaching equivalent to teach in the automotive area and maybe someone at their shop who wants to teach might be interested in one of the degrees listed here so they can teach.

We are going to have some changes to day program Engines class. It will become more of tear down, measure, inspect, and pre-diagnosis class. Rick asked if the shops are still doing engines. Ray said that they have a big recall now and he doesn’t see it going away for 3 to 5 years.

Paul asked Zim Gwee and Ray Chin for their input about the degree that engines are now being repaired in their shops. Paul said he sees that cylinder head related repairs are most of what is now done as engine repair. He would like to make the class emphasis on R and R of cylinder heads, timing belts and piston heads. Ray said they mostly remove cylinder head and use a wire wheel to clean out. They are not doing short blocks. Techs need skill to take pistons out and re-ringing them.

Tom suggested that in the class engines on stands would give them the skill set to do these tasks. Ray agreed. All agreed precision measurement will still be important but very little machining needs to be done. Zim said that he has a lot of jobs that are oil leaks that need repair. Our new Hybrid program is doing well. For prerequisites the instructor talks to the student. A little electrical would be a good start. Zim Gwee said it was one of the best classes he’s had and he would take it again.

Rick said that he had to brag that Edwin Alfaro and Kuyen Yip are running the Toyota Training Center in San Ramon. They are both graduates of Skyline’s Toyota Program and they began their teaching careers at Skyline College.

6) Changes to Smog Check Program – Rick Escalambre

A. Licensing Requirements: Inspector License – Test Only & Repair Only License

Rick provided the group a four page handout explaining the new Smog Check licenses available. The beginning student can be a Test Only Smog Inspector and get the EO license. They don’t have to have ASEs or any experience. They just need to take the first two classes listed on the first

page of the handout. We have an AUTO 524 and 525 that are offered each Fall and Spring back to back. These classes are equivalent to the Level I and Level II classes listed on the first page. Level I is Emission Controls and Engine Performance and Level II is Procedures Training. The advantage of them coming here is that we have 4 dynos and 6 smog machines so they get some practice. Rick outlined other options for the EO license that are on the first page of the handout. On the second page are the rules to become a repair only technician and for that you will not need a Dyno or tail pipe test. He told the group if they had any questions about where their techs should start to give him a call.

B. STAR Program

Rick asked if any of our Advisory members were STAR stations. None of the members were.

C. Equipment Requirements and OBD II Only Testing

Rick told the group that if they were doing OBD II only testing they had to have 32 bit Windows 7 on their laptop. Tom said to stay away from Windows 8.

Tom said he had one more question before we moved on. He asked if they are using coolant flush machines and if so what brand. Many said no. Zim said that the manufacturer trains the tech how to use the machine

7) Apprenticeship Information/Courses – Tom Broxholm

Tom told the group that they revised the list of required and elective apprentice courses to current and relevant courses. There are now more core courses and less elective courses for a strong background for the apprentice.

Jon said that there are some exciting things going on with the JAC. But before he got into that he talked about safety training. Safety training is becoming an important training topic. Recently someone in a shop was killed. It was an apprentice shop but it was not an apprentice who was killed. A crane tech supervisor at Points of America was on top of the crane fell off. Jon asked that we stress safety in our training. He has been checking with local schools to find what safety classes they offer. Tom told Jon about the website we are using to give our students safety training (SP2.org). They have federally certified online safety training and he would send the link to Jon. Jon said that in the San Francisco area apprentices are required to pass 4 of the 8 ASEs. In the East Bay all apprentices are required to pass all 8 ASEs. They are going to implement the policy that the apprentice is required to take 1 ASE a year. They are not required to pass it but they must take it. They are encouraging the apprentice to take the ASE test right after they finish their class and asked us to encourage the apprentices to do this.

They have moved their offices. He said that currently their business model is not. They have done everything they can in terms of cutting costs. They are planning on expanding their program to

include more than just the Machinist union and offer services to other unions. Recently they got a grant for the manufacturing unions. He is working with Laney College and De Anza on this. Apprentices cannot by law pay for their training. They are working to get the State funds for apprentices to not be siphoned off and stay with the Community Colleges for apprentices. They are contacting the Legislature to get these things to happen.

8) Formation of a scholarship committee for deserving students – Rick Escalambre

Rick thanked Kirk from City Toyota for the donations he makes every year to scholarships. He hopes that others will be interested in scholarships also. Rick will send out a letter soon about this.

9) Additional comments and suggestions from the Advisory Board Members

A. Employment opportunities-

Rick asked if the group thought it would be better to have a Job Fair or just have them contact us when they need a tech. The group seemed to want to have a job fair.

Jon suggested that it is good to coach the kids, have them think about questions to ask, remind them to dress properly and have them put together a resume.

Rick told the group he will be sending a link for former student to fill out a survey for our program review. This is an important part of program review.

B. Industry Outlook

Some said that it is hard to tell if things are looking up. Things may be getting slowly better. Nef Castro mentioned he could predict within a few dollars the monthly gross sales, now he can no longer do that because it has become unpredictable.

Next Meeting: October

10) Review of NATEF Recertification paperwork for 2 ½ year review.

Rick announced the May 18 Automotive Banquet at the Basque Cultural Center and all are invited.

Rick said that in October we will be having our 2 /12 NATEF Review meeting.

Thanks to our Board for attending this meeting and their ongoing support.

The meeting was adjourned at **1:35** p.m.