

# Automotive Technology Program

## Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes May 10<sup>th</sup> 2017

Members Present: Oliver Taylor, John Miller, Ken Johnson (for Lacey Cunningham), John Neely, Will Mobley, and Jeremy Rasmussen.

Call to order 11:05 am

### Action items:

1. Approval of the minutes; motion to approve by, John Miller seconded by, Will Mobley approved unanimously.

### Discussion items:

1. Strong Work Force HEV Grant

Mike was recapping the results from the last meeting when it came out that the members much rather see HEV training as opposed to or instead of concentrating on an MLR program. Mike stated that he has been working on developing class content and is interested in the technology. Mike wrote in for a grant for 460K and it was approved.

Monies were set to purchase more HEVs and for program development and instructor training.

Mike also introduced to the committee the idea of externship. Basically the idea is for the instructors of the HEV program to shadow and or participate in any work related to HEV technology at any of the industry partners' shops. If they could give Mike a call while there is an HEV in any of their shops. Stating that this exposure to real shop scenarios would keep the HEV courses relevant. The committee was willing and open to the idea.

Speaking about money, 250K is dedicated to go towards revamping the old diesel shop to accommodate the HEV program. Mike was stating that the current shop area is booked with the current auto program and there is a clear need for additional shop space.

Some of the delays were identified as: Other disciplines of the CTE vying for the same space, UIR by the state for seismic retro fitting the buildings and schedule changes surrounding that work; aside from those delays there is also hesitation to minor changes or additions needed for running an auto shop in that space. In the meantime both instructors are going to go to training and vehicles will be sought after and faculty will work with administration to move forward.

## Comments:

John Miller-shared that the governor mandated a 20% zero emissions vehicles for the light duty fleet for State Parks. And that it is good to see that money is going towards training technicians. He also sees a real possibility that a similar requirement maybe in the near future once H.E. Trucks start becoming available. He also shared that the Parks are mandated to install charging stations for fleet vehicles with a strong possibility of infrastructure for the regular public in State Parks for the future.

Will Mobley – shared that the EV Chevrolet Bolts are selling well.

John Neely – also volunteered that electric minivans are also on their way shortly. Their techs are being trained currently and are preparing for servicing these vehicles.

Jeremy Rasmussen – shared that mid-city is seeing a lot of the older generations of HEV coming in with high mileage.

Tesla came up often throughout the meeting as a spectacular vehicle. However, they leave a want for more charging stations and parts availability in rural areas.

## 2. Measure Q money

From 350K \$ we have about 15K \$ left of that money. Mike shared that he is looking to buy 8.8 axle service kits to do a better job of instructing that portion of the Manual transmission and axle class. CR has enough 8.8 rear axles to do training with and they are still popular as a service item in the field.

He also proposed purchasing a 1234yf refrigerant machine and purchasing another 134a machine. R12 to 134a retrofitting is all about done and the R12 machine is going into retirement soon.

## Comments:

Committee members shared that they are seeing 1234yf jobs already. Some of the bigger shops in the area already have the 1234yf machines. Some of the committee members enquired about specifics with 1234yf such as operating high and low pressures, amount used by the A/C system, it's pricing and how volatile it is.

Quick discussions about CO2 as an alternative refrigerant concluded that in some climates it underperformed and that it's not likely that we will see it here in the U.S.

## 3. Skills gaps

Mike asked the committee members to identify any gaps in skills that they notice in the completers of the program. He started by asking about soft skills things like being in on time regularly, ready for work, etc....

Ken Johnson stated that it comes down to the person, saying that the student will get out of the program as much as they put into it. That the opportunity to learn is present and that it's

ultimately up to the individual. He also said that the industry would benefit from an effort to recruit or otherwise capture those students that show potential. To inform them more about what a program like CR's can provide for them at a fraction of the cost when compared to bigger trade schools. To concentrate on increasing the numbers of caliber students who are genuinely interested in the field and are not just in it for the units. He said that it's unrealistic to expect the college to teach things (like work ethic or other soft skills) they (the students) should have learned at home. A dedicated student could walk away with a lot of knowledge.

Jeremy Rasmussen stated that it doesn't seem like there are a lot of graduates around.

Mike then explained that with a lot of turn over and the lack of another full-time faculty member that a program intended for two years turned into three. However, now that there are two instructors again it is expected that the number of completers will increase.

John Neely asked about what we see as far as the students grasping basic electrical skills.

Mike then volunteered the types of subjects and areas covered in both the basic and advanced electrical courses. And that the students cannot pass if they do not know how to use a DMM.

Ken Johnson chimed saying that he thinks that the basic electrical class is the most important class being offered. That if a student grasps the DMM and basic electrical skills that that alone will put them above the rest. And that again in large part it comes down to the student and how much effort is exerted.

John Neely shared that soon there will be a nationwide test administered to all of (Dodge?) certified technicians. A 90 question test that will determine if their skills and knowledge will be reflected by their test scores. If not the technician's certification level may be adjusted. This is why he was asking about the electrical classes.

Mike replied that he recognized the need for emphasizing strong electrical skills early on in his teaching career and has always made it a point. And speaking to recruitment he also reminded the committee that some High Schools visit and or we visit some of the High Schools every year.

Ken Johnson feels that more or less we compete with the active recruiters representing big trade schools. That if, we visited other local schools to gauge the students' potential and to be present, as an option, then our numbers of dedicated students would increase. He also feels that local high schools don't push trades as viable career paths. Career fairs especially push a 4 year institution. If need be he also volunteered as a spokesperson for the program to demonstrate what you can get out of the program.

Several committee members shared their experiences with graduates from big and expensive trade schools. Some stating that they (the graduates of big trade schools) often come to work with an elitist attitude without the skills to back it up. Most likely stemming from the fact that bigger trade schools are bias towards graduating as many students as they can to turn a profit,

build up their ego and not necessarily to graduate quality technicians as their main priority. Other members shared that when compared to graduates from CR's Auto program the graduates of bigger and more expensive schools are often left with a big bill to pay off. Often it seems like these recent grads get overwhelmed by their debt, while at the same time do not have enough time or experience in the field to substantiate their immediate demand for higher wages to be able to manage with such monthly debts.

The committee had several positive and encouraging things to say about our program when compared to bigger trade schools such as: it's a fraction of the cost, it's a slower paced program where a student has more time with the material, no elitist attitude, graduates of our program have demonstrated great soft skills, our graduates recognize that there is always room to grow as a technician, our graduates are often from this area and want to stay local, our graduates also have a realistic expectation of wages as a new technician.

The meeting concluded with several members agreeing that quality techs are in need locally and that wages are increasing as well.

Meeting adjourned 12:07 pm