

Automotive Technology Program

Advisory committee meeting minutes for May 9th 2018

Members present: Crisy Zeimetz, Katrina Simser, Ken Rocha, John Miller, Will Mobley. Also present: Kerry Meyer, Mike Richards and Anibal Florez.

Call to order at 6:07 PM

Welcoming remarks made by Mike, recognizing those in attendance.

Crisy is a successful technician in the field and a graduate of our program. She is currently working for Harper Ford.

Ken is a shop owner and has been a long time employer and supporter of our graduates. Being a graduate of the program himself, he understands the value of “growing your own techs” and takes our graduates to do just that.

Will is a long time committee member and a service manager at Northwood Chevy Hyundai. Also employs one of our graduates. Will expressed how pleased he is with his recent hire and his overall performance on the job. Everything from the physical work but the written work as well. Wishes all his techs wrote in the same manner.

John is a graduate from the program and works for state parks in charge of maintaining the vehicle fleet and has recently been promoted. He hired one of our graduates and is happy to say that he doesn't need constant supervision. He can be given direction and be left alone. A good addition.

Kerry is our new Dean and she was paying us a much-welcomed visit.

Katrina is the service manager at BMW of Humboldt Bay. Her first meeting and a great addition. Anibal's previous employer.

Action items:

1. Approval of the minutes motioned by Will Mobley and seconded by John Miller. Approved unanimously.

Discussion items:

1. Strong Work Force HEV Grant

Comments:

Mike recapped the HEV program and training. Mike reminded everyone that he has been attending regular training during the past 4-5 years. So far it's developed into a couple of classes perhaps later it may evolve to something bigger. There were several meetings on campus about whether or not to continue with the development of the HEV program, sighting Mike's possible

retirement. Also, physical space on campus has been an ongoing issue due to the UIR initiative, overall safety and other programs on campus vying for the same space. The themes so far have been postponement of the project and denials of modifications to the diesel lab to better suit an automotive class, and absence of a designated space for a high voltage electrical vehicle class that includes safe storage of high voltage components that pose a threat to human life. The grant allows for Mike to take time during the semester for an externship to local shops that service, diagnose and maintain HEVs. However, it was decided that the program would suffer if one of the two instructors took a semester off. There is a lack of qualified associate faculty to backfill any instructor absences. Despite these hurdles the program has been approved to continue its development. The vehicles and tools can be purchased, and the program or classes can be developed even if it must be shelved while the other faculty can be properly trained given Mike's retirement.

John just attended a seminar with Automotive Training Institute (ATI) where there was a Ford representative who speculated that gasoline engines would be a thing of the past within the next 15 years.

Other committee members also volunteered information that they have heard or noticed from other manufacturers that support the forward momentum that HEVs in the automotive markets. Ultimately this substantiates the need for the HEV classes that are being developed by Mike Richards.

Mike relayed to everyone in the meeting that Northwood Chevrolet had won the bid for the sale of a brand new Chevy Bolt to be purchased for the HEV courses. Following that announcement, Mike also shared with everyone that Will Mobley was kind enough to set him up with General Motor training on HEVs.

Both Mike and Anibal attended CAT conference where Anibal was able to get into some light HEV training. Not extensive by any means but good exposure none the less. Anibal will also be attending the NACAT conference. Currently were looking for additional HEV training resources for Anibal.

2. Measure Q Equipment Updates

Comments:

Mike reminded everyone that the last time we met we talked about the use of the remaining Measure Q funds. We decided that some of the dedicated funds for the HEV classes can also be used to update some equipment that can also be applied to regular ICE vehicles. So instead we dedicated the use of the remaining Measure Q funds to improve how lab activities and tasks function within the regular program shop area by updating some tools and purchasing additional hand tools and general shop equipment. Everyone was invited to tour the shop and check out the new purchases that we left out on display. The tools purchased included: engine support brackets, transmission jack, oil drain catches, vice grips, gear wrenches, 4T60E transaxles and factory manuals, vacuum powered coolant refilling kits, HEV insulation checkers, and transmission refill feeders to name a few.

Mike also reminded and asked everyone in attendance that the program makes great use of any lien sales that the shop or dealership may have and may want to donate to the program. Thank you Harper Ford.

Crisy suggested looking into a coolant exchange machine. These are popular in shops that do a lot of coolant system flushes and general drain and refill services on cooling systems. Mike said we will look into what machines are available to us.

3. CTEA Grant

Comments:

Anibal told everyone that the CTEA grant he wrote got funded and those monies will go towards improving teaching materials for the automatic transmission classes and also pay for his attendance and travel to NACAT this summer.

4. Class Scheduling Updates

Comments:

Mike and Anibal explained the rationale behind some minor rescheduling that was carried out to better accommodate the subject matter without a lot of overlap in material. We did this specifically for engine repair and AC and heating courses. There were several students who had both classes that same semester and they were over exposed to cooling systems. So to keep it interesting we moved engine repair to the fall semester. This meant moving the brakes system class to the spring. This still fits with the two year program completion time.

As a side note we also told the committee that the college has been hosting local middle schools and high school tours of our shop and classroom. The goal being exposure to other educational paths and what CR has to offer. There have been promising results and feedback.

Mike also wanted to bring up that the 5 gas analysis machines are not surviving the shelf time that these machines sit through between course offerings. Out of 5 we currently have 2 that are operational. Having said that, Mike wanted to get some feedback from the committee about how important they feel these machines are in their day to day operation and technician use. Ken definitely uses these machines not only for emissions but also general diagnostics as well. Basically it's a must have at his independent shop, well worth the money and effort to up keep. It is another tool for a diagnostic technician. And most of the committee believe that it's a must have in a teaching institution.

Meeting adjourned 7:56 pm