Central New Mexico Community College
School of Skilled Trades & Arts
Sam

AVMT - Advisory Committee Minutes, Fall 2025

Date: 10/24/25 **Number of Attendees: 10**

Called to order: 3:02 pm **Adjourned:** 3:48 pm

Chairperson: Mike Racine **Recorder:** Katherine Meagher

Location: ATC 108/Zoom

Members present from industry: Dave Gerken- Snap-On Industrial, **Mike Racine**- Chair, **Melodee Saiz**- APS (online)

Members present from CNM: **Jeremy Frick**- Instructor, **Matthew Giese**- Instructor, **Erin Joseph**- Associate Dean, **Samuel Kerwin**- AVS (online), **Katherine Meagher**- ATA, **Margaret Ortega**- WCS, **Denise Proctor**- CNM Advisement (online)

Next scheduled meeting: TBD

I. Welcome/Introductions: Started at 3:02 pm. Introductions were had.

II. Minutes: Minutes from Spring 25 were approved.

III. Reports:

1. **College Updates:** Erin gave college-wide updates. She reported that enrollment at CNM is over 19,000 and is expected to increase as the year continues, mostly due to late start courses. Enrollment in Skilled Trades and Arts is up 8% from Fall 25 and further growth is expected, especially as many of our classes started on September 22nd. Enrollment numbers are very close to exceeding pre-COVID enrollment, using a benchmark of Fall 2019.

   The new Ted Chavez Trades and Technologies Center (TTC) had its grand opening in August and started holding classes on September 22nd. This project cost about $57 million and was built in order to provide better access to trades education and address the growing needs of the local workforce. The center is designed for hands-on, practical learning and features multiple outdoor training areas so that students can experience similar working situations as they would in the workforce. The new TTC building will house our administration offices as well as our Carpentry, Welding, HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, and Mechatronics programs.

   The RioTech campus also opened for classes this fall, providing instruction to high school and adult learners. Programs at RioTech include Carpentry, Plumbing, Welding, Digital Media, and Electrical. In the future, there are also plans for our Film and Digital Media programs to move to the Albuquerque Railyards (in partnership between MAC and the city) as well as a new building in Rio Rancho to house our Automotive and EV programs. The west wing of the old Ted Chavez (TC) building is slated for demolition starting in January 26. Until the new Rio Rancho campus is done, Automotive and EV will remain in the east wing of the TC building.

There are also plenty of part-time faculty position that have been posted or will be posted soon. There is also a full-time Aviation position open- this is set to post in the spring. We encourage our partners to look into these postings and share them with anyone they think could be interested!

CNM will be implementing more short-term certificates and micro-credentials in order to provide flexible and focused learning options for students. This means that students will be receiving targeted skill development within weeks or months, as opposed to traditional degrees that take multiple years. Micro-credentials will validate certain skills and/or competencies and can be stacked for students to build a larger, better professional portfolio. This should help students with quickly upskilling, reskilling, or even switching careers in a fast-changing job market. Both these micro-credentials and short-term certificates are industry-aligned, affordable, and recognized by employers as a sign of proactive learning and specific expertise. We do value input from our advisory committee as we implement these credentials- your feedback on this will be valuable!

2. **Enrollment and Graduation rates:** Erin also discussed enrollment and graduation rates. In Fall 24, Aviation saw a 68% fill rate. This fall, there is an 80% fill rate, showing a rise in enrollment. Term 1 of the program also traditionally sees the highest fill rates. In Fall 24, there was an 87% fill rate for Term 1 classes. This fall, it went up to 91%. Erin also discussed graduation numbers. In Spring 25, 3 students graduated with a degree, 7 graduated with a Powerplant certificate, and 1 with an Airframe certificate. One of these graduates is actually our new part-time instructor, Matthew Giese.

   Jeremy expanded on these graduation rates and stated that due to FAA Technical Education Council requirements, the program is required to have a pass rate of 70% at the very least. He stated that ATEC released the preliminary numbers and our program currently has a 93% pass rate, which is above and beyond what is required.

3. **Equipment:** Jeremy discussed equipment updates. Recently, he took a trip to Colorado and met with the director of AIMS to discuss this. The director recommended a vendor that could make the procurement deadlines that CNM requires for new equipment. Meeting these deadlines has presented problems in the past when it comes to getting new equipment. Jeremy said that they are currently looking at getting anti-skid, hydraulic, and heating-and-cooling trainers for the lab. They are also discussing purchasing another Allison 250 since more students are entering the Powerplant program at this time. Approval of this is pending.

IV. <u>Old Business</u> No old business.

V. <u>New Business</u> Margaret of Workforce & Community Success (WCS) gave a quick presentation highlighting their work between WCS and our community partners. She emphasized the importance of advisory committees and how they help CNM align our programs with industry needs. She said that employer engagement with WCS is continuing to increase significantly each year and that they exceeded their target goal in said engagements, with a 3% increase from the 24-25 school year to Fall 25. She also spoke about student internships- the goal is for all students to have a work-based learning opportunity (such as job shadows, internships, micro internships, etc). 254 interns were placed this year with 84 employers partnering with CNM for these internships. 95% of these internships are paid through NM Higher Education Department (HED) funding and about 2,592 learners have received scholarships for training resulting in industry-recognized credentials. She also mentioned that 44% of employers receiving these interns were private companies non-profit organizations, not large businesses, so our local workforce is reaping the benefits of these programs!

Skilled Trades and Arts still has room to grow- the goal is to get manufacturing to grow which should be possible with employer help. WCS can coordinate job shadows, lab tours, and internships with employers to meet their needs. She also mentioned that WCS will be focusing on Manufacturing Month this October and is planning activities in order to increase awareness in our programs and help students with their career plans. She encouraged any interested parties to contact WCS at employersupport@cnm.edu and to fill out the survey available on the Agenda page provided via email in order to provide feedback! A survey link will also be emailed to the entire committee at a later time.

Jeremy discussed potential curriculum changes. He discussed how there will be some restructuring due to a regulatory change from 2022, which no longer requires seat time. Usually, most CNM programs are 60 credit hours. Aviation, however, is at 86, making it one of the largest programs at CNM. They are needing to revise the program so that they can teach the same amount of material with fewer credit hours. The main idea is to streamline the program- cut the fat or consolidate similar courses without sacrificing the program's quality. Jeremy and Erin have been working together to make these changes and, after going to the ATEC conference, Jeremy stated that they will be utilizing a consultant as well. Mike agreed this is a good move and approves of these changes.

Jeremy said this will take the program from 86 credit hours to 76 credit hours, which is still over the usual 60. He added that they are still limited by FAA requirements- they need to teach certain standards and part of that is for them to provide evidence to the FAA that every learning code is embedded in their curriculum. These changes should take place over the course of the next year.

VI. Reports from Industry Members: Dave reported that this has been a stranger year for Snap-On. He is unsure exactly why this is- possibly due to tariffs even though all of their factories are in the US, though higher ups could be anticipating a potential impact. Everything seems solid on the Aviation side of the business though. He also talked about how Snap-On will give students discounts when they buy through Snap-On. Mike thanked Dave and Snap-On for that as it is a great opportunity for our students. Dave said that last year was great with working with students and said he had more Aviation students making direct purchases with Snap-On. He has also been in talks with the Bookstore about toolkits and has noticed that the Bookstore tends to mark these up, much more so than he normally sells them for. Could anything be done about this? Erin mentioned that the Bookstore normally can't adjust prices and Jeremy added that this is mostly due to financial aid purposes.

Mike mentioned how tools mark how much of a professional one is and that it's important to have quality tools. He said that having support from Snap-On is fantastic- all of Mike's tools are Snap-On and have lasted a long time.

Melodee spoke about APS' focus on career pathways and their efforts to bring skilled trades and arts into schools. One of these efforts are the Albuquerque Academies at three different high schools. These academies will be promoting engagement in trades & arts and supporting students in career pathways. She also spoke on the partnership APS has with United Way in order to speak with more middle schoolers, especially 8th graders. In the spring, United Way held career exploration events at Van Buren, Hays, and Wilson middle schools, working with over 300 8th graders and community employers. Mores school should be added to this effort with each year. These events should help get students engaged with trades & arts and give them an idea of what it is like to be work ready and how to conduct oneself. Please share all productions and events with Melodee so she can share this information with APS high schools. She also invited committee members to be speakers for career events!

Mike asked what kind of technical and vocational programs are in high schools right now. Melodee stated that there is welding at Valley High School, paint and body car at Highland, automotive at El Dorado and Sandia, esports at Del Norte, and health, culinary, and science at Rio Grande.

Jeremy and Matthew have been to multiple airshows at Kirtland over the summer and used these events for recruiting, such as at the Double Eagle Airshow in September. They usually bring a cutaway engine in order to promote the program. Melodee suggested that Aviation could always come to some of APS' middle school events in order to promote the program- she can send an email invite to anyone interested. They have 30 or so 10-minute sessions and see about 120 students for these events, so this could be great to get younger students excited for Aviation! She also mentioned that the Spring-Fall 2026 Career Expo is currently being planned at Berna Facio for any interested parties.

VII. Adjournment: Adjourned at 3:48 pm.