



CARP/CM - Advisory Committee Minutes, Fall 2025

Date: 10/29/25

Number of Attendees: 10

Called to order: 2:10 pm

Adjourned: 3:21 pm

Chairperson: Eric Ghahate

Recorder: Katherine Meagher

Location: TTC 403/Zoom

Members present from industry: Johnny Barton- Brycon (online), Taylor Busch- Souder Miller (online), Joe Flemming- Bradbury Stamm (online), Claudio Garrido- UNM (online), Sam Hatchell- Jaynes Corp (online), Jaqueline Miramontes- Jaynes Corp (online), Shannon Perry- Blue Dog Fine Woodworking, Melodee Saiz- APS, Kevin Vautier- Abrazo Homes (online)

Members present from CNM: Katelyn Attanasio- CNM Ingenuity, Phelan Gavaldon- Instructor, Eric Ghahate- Chair/Instructor (online), Sionna Grassbaugh- Interim Dean, Katherine Meagher- ATA, Margaret Ortega- WCS, Roderigo Padilla- Associate Dean, Angela Perez- CNM Advisement (online), Kurt Sullivan- Instructor

Next scheduled meeting: TBD

I. Welcome/Introductions: Eric started with introductions.

II. Minutes: Minutes from Spring 25 were approved.

III. Reports:

- 1. College Updates:** Sionna 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. This includes a wing dedicated entirely to Carpentry.

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. We encourage our partners to look into these postings and share them with anyone they think could be interested! Carpentry also added a new full-time instructor, Kurt Sullivan, for this current fall term. Sionna said we are very excited to have him and says that with his help, we should be seeing great changes to the program.

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:** Roderigo gave updates on enrollment and graduations. This fall, Carpentry has 208 students enrolled with a fill rate of 47%. This is up from 147 students in the Spring and a 27% fill rate. Construction Management currently has 82 students enrolled with a 68% fill rate, which is slightly decreased from spring's 85 enrolled students and 75% fill rate. Recently, there were 2 students that earned their Residential Carpentry Certificate and 4 students that earned their AAS in Carpentry. For Construction Management, 8 students graduated with their certificate and 5 received their AAS. Roderigo attributed this overall increase in enrollment to hiring Kurt as a 3-term instructor, as the previous instructor had only been a 2-term instructor. This has allowed Carpentry to offer classes in the summer. Carpentry has also been able to hire 2 new part-time instructors, Emiliano Maestas and Jim Sandoval, enabling the program to offer more classes including evening courses.
3. **Equipment:** Roderigo also discussed new equipment. Carpentry received plenty of new equipment due to the move to the new building. Carpentry received almost \$1 million worth of new equipment, which came from a combination of project funds, Perkins funding, and a few other grants that were created for the new lab. He admitted that there have been some growing pains with the new lab- the program is still waiting on a full dust collector to be installed and there are several electrical issues that are still being worked out. They are also still using some of the old equipment that is still in good working condition. However, they are still looking at acquiring new equipment for the lab and are currently working on a wish-list for said equipment needs. Equipment replacement is also upcoming, so they will be evaluating what might need to be replaced. Eric praised the new lab and said that it is doing wonders for student and faculty morale.

IV. Old Business Sionna asked Eric about progress on the catalog changes for common core numbering, which was to be discussed in tandem with UNM. Eric stated that he has meetings lined up with Dana Smith in order to deliver program information to students. He has also been working with Anthony and Kim on the CCN catalog changes. The process has been started with UNM but it is in the very early stages. He has so far provided textbook and schedule information.

V. New Business 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



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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 was focused on Manufacturing Month this October and planned 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.

Sionna added that since woodworking is utilized in manufacturing that maybe Carpentry can be included in Manufacturing Month next year, in order to help promote the program.

Roderigo discussed curriculum changes. He and Kurt have been working together to restructure the Residential Carpentry Certificate. They found that the basic and fundamentals classes, classes that would teach basic skills, were scheduled for Term 2 instead of Term 1. Kurt noted that these skills were desperately needed in Term 1 as many students come into the program without basic measuring skills. They have proposed to move those classes to Term 1 and will also be proposing a program-approved elective so that minimum credit hours are satisfied. This will also mean that these fundamentals classes will be swapped with classes such as Construction Methods II and the OSHA classes, moving those classes to Term 2. Kurt said this should provide a better content flow for students. These proposed changes will be going to the curriculum committee to be approved by Fall 26. Kurt said they are doing a dry run of this course structure currently to see how it works. They are hoping for a better success and retention rate with these changes.

Kurt added that they are looking at program as a whole, even looking at what classes are needing for the AAS degree and the certificate in order to build a good pathway for students who would like to jump from a certificate to the degree. He noted that as they continue to streamline the program, they would appreciate input from industry so they can see what else they can focus on, such as opportunities for upskilling, offering night classes vs days classes, or experimenting with shorter class times. Overall, they want to focus on what will work better for students and faculty.

Eric stated that he is glad that our faculty is thinking of how to retool classes and make them more accessible to students, especially after how much Skilled Trades and Arts was highlighted at Convocation at the start of term. He noted that Construction Management has historically had an issue with low and slow graduation rates as well as multiple accessibility issues. He is also working on restructuring Construction Management at this time and mentioned that all of our programs could benefit from this attitude of wanting to streamline and improve their coursework. He currently has been heavily involved on utilizing Competency Based Education (CBE) in Construction Management and has been developing an open education resource for the program. He is excited about this process! He went on to explain the template he uses and how he uses competencies as a guide for learning outcomes and course content.

VI. Reports from Industry Members: Katelyn gave an update on CNM Ingenuity. Things have been busy. They are currently looking for instructors to teach Precision, Measurements, and Hand tools. They are partnering with RFK High School to teach students basics of Carpentry, such as precision, measurement, and hand tool skills. They are also wrapping up their first cohort of their Manufacturing Essentials classes. They are hoping to teach skills that could lead students to CNM or Ingenuity classes. She also mentioned that they are holding plenty of contract trainings with Sandia Labs, Netflix, and other such industries. In fact, they have 6 times the number of trainings this year than any other year



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in the past. She stated that Ingenuity is always happy to fill any training needs for any employer. If interested, please contact CNM Ingenuity for more information.

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. More schools 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!

APS had also been hosting some community partnerships with CNM and UNM, even focusing on Carpentry. APS is also trying to focus more on Construction and is even looking at reaching students at even younger ages, even as young as elementary aged!

Johnny reported that Intel is slow this year, but most contractors are still pretty busy in this regional area. Several large projects have been announced but are slow to get going. Such projects include a major project in Southern New Mexico for data centers, Pacific Fusion at Mesa del Sol, and Ebon Solar. Most of these current projects are still dealing with approvals but there is potential for other major projects to come in a supplement these current ones. He noted that a larger sub-contractor recently went out of business, but there is still a need for people in the industry, especially with older, more experienced contractors retiring. There is a large need for people seeing as many have left the state and the country due to the current political climate.

Shannon reported that they are short on installers and short on people in general. He mentioned that a problem they are seeing is that new hires are not trained up, not even on basic skills, and are needing to be trained on the job. He did mention that they were able to hire 2 CNM graduates and that one has progressed to a management position. He said that it is vital for students to know how to draw, create blueprints and work with specific software. His shop and others that he knows of currently use Cabinet Vision and Microvellum in addition to CAD.

Claudia reported that they are seeing an increase in AI at UNM and are discussing how to introduce new tech to students. She has been participating and studying up on this at events. She mentioned that when students come to UNM from CNM, they seem to have problems with reading drawings as well as cost estimating- maybe this is something to discuss between the schools for better alignment. They are also discussing reintroducing CAD as well as better instruction of digital tools.

Taylor said there were no major updates. She did pass along WCS internship information to her HR department in order to spread the word! She also asked if she could pass information about our advisory meetings to other industry members as they have shown interest. Phelan encouraged her to do so and Kurt added that if they wish to meet one on one with our instructors, that he is willing to set aside time to do so.

VII. Adjournment: Adjourned at 3:21 pm