Central New Mexico Community College
School of Skilled Trades & Arts

CARP/CM - Advisory Committee Minutes, Spring 2025

Date: 4/9/2025 **Number of Attendees:** 16

Called to order: 12:02 pm **Adjourned:** 1:14 pm

Chairperson: Eric Ghahate **Recorder:** Katherine Meagher

Location: ATC 108/Zoom

Members present from industry: **Johnny Barton-** Brycon**, Susan Bogus Halter-** UNM**, Taylor Busch-** Souder Miller**, Derek Meier-** Wilson & Co **(zoom), Melodee Saiz-** APS**, Antonio Vigil-** FBT Architects **(zoom)**

Members present from CNM: **Jeff DeBellis-** CNM Ingenuity, **Eric Ghahate-** Chair/CM Instructor, **Sionna Grassbaugh-** Associate Dean, **Joe Hirschfeld-** CARP Instructor (zoom), **Erin Johnson-Kruft-** Dean, **Katherine Meagher-** ATA, **Margaret Ortega**, **David Ortiz**, **Roderigo Padilla**, **Cynthia Ramirez-Gurule** (zoom)

Next scheduled meeting: TBD

I. Welcome/Introductions: Meeting started at 12:02 pm. Introductions were had.

II. Minutes: Minutes from 2024 were approved.

III. Reports:

1. **College Updates:** Erin spoke on the larger updates with the school of Skilled Trades and Arts. There has been an increase in enrollment from fall to spring and from last year alone, there was a 7% increase overall for Skilled Trades and Arts. The benchmark is looking at pre-COVID numbers and enrollment. STA is one of the few academic schools close to pre-COVID numbers. She also mentioned that summer enrollment is already looking great- STA is up 33% from last summer. There has been a high demand for some of our programs while others need help with recruitment. One other advantage is that there are plenty of scholarships to help support the community and for those looking to go back to school- most programs in STA qualify!

   She also took some time to address the current shift in politics and how the recent rash of executive orders could be affecting funding. Perkins will be impacted as will CTE programs, professional development, travel, and equipment, which are funded by Perkins. One of the main focuses moving forward is to support students and staff during these times in the current political climate. Some activities may not be funded going forward, even if they were funded before. Events and workshops will be heavily impacted especially if they fall under DEI. There have also been national cluster changes with the Perkins grant and many clusters are being revamped. She also mentioned the impact of recent tariffs and how that could affect CNM's supply chain.

   Erin also spoke on Rio-Tech, set for Fall 2025. HVAC and Plumbing will be two of the programs housed there, in addition to Welding, Carpentry, and Electrical Trades. The program will focus on high school students in grades 10-12, with 9th graders being taught core subjects before moving to trades in 10th grade. These students will be taking CNM courses with CNM faculty in conjunction with the required high school coursework. Currently, it is expected that there will be about 20 students per class. In addition, CNM will be able to offer classes outside of

regular school hours. Hopefully, this will fill the need for trades in Sandoval County. The grand opening for the Rio-Tech building is slated for April 2025. Additional updates will be provided. She also spoke a little on the new STA building on Main Campus- the grand opening is slated for sometime in September. Updates will be provided as they come.

Overall, CNM is still committed to their values and the goal to create a sense of belonging for anyone that wants to learn. She also brought up that since the birth rate going down in the country, fewer high school graduates will be coming to CNM. She stated that STA will have to enhance their recruitment strategies and target adults looking to go back to school.

2. **Enrollment and Graduation rates:** Roderigo gave updates on enrollment for the Carpentry program. He reported that overall enrollment for Skilled Trades and Arts is up 4% from last spring. Carpentry specifically is now at a 51% fill rate, which is up 21% from a fill rate of 32% as of last spring. From spring 2024 to fall 2025, Carpentry awarded 3 certificates and 1 associates degree to their graduates. Carpentry is also in the process of hiring a full-time 3-term instructor. Having this instructor should help keep students on track by offering classes during the summer terms. In addition to a full-time position, Carpentry is also looking for part-time instructors. Erin added that the full-time position is posted right now and that we are hoping to have someone for this summer- please share any details for possible candidates! Roderigo also mentioned the new STA building opening in fall, where Carpentry will be moving into a new lab.

   Sionna gave an update on the Construction Management program, which has an AAS degree as well as an AS program that allows students to transfer to UNM for their Bachelor's. The AAS program currently has 89 active students, 52 of which have taken a course and gotten a grade for the current academic year. The average age is 28 and there was 1 graduate in the fall as well as 1 in the spring. Most graduates are set to graduate this summer term as that is when they are finishing their courses. The AS program currently has 90 active students, 53 of which have taken a course and gotten a grade for the current academic year. There was 1 graduate in the fall. The Construction Estimating and Scheduling Certificate currently has 36 active students, 12 of which have gotten a grade for the current academic year. There have been 2 graduates in the fall and 1 for spring. She noted that they are trying to figure out how to reach the students who are active but haven't yet received a grade for the current academic year.

   Sionna spoke more on the Construction Estimating and Scheduling Certificate and how it was scheduled for sunset or to be phased out. She said that they were able to make a case for the program to remain especially as it's a certificate that is embedded in the degree program. The certificate will get a name change in fall to the Pre-Construction Certificate. There is one SUR 2205 class in the AS and AAS degree that is not available online as is the rest of the courses in the programs. In the AAS, that class will be replaced with a Project Management course starting in Spring 26. The AS degree will be reviewed and changes made for Fall 26. Eric also added that one of the problems presented with the SUR 2205 in the two degrees was that it had 2 pre-requisite courses that weren't known about and weren't needed. He said that it's been good to correct this issue and added that their long-term solution has been to make sure that no extra credits are being added. He also said that the CM program recently hired a new part-time instructor, which has been helpful given their professional experience. We value that experience in the classroom!

3. **Equipment:** Erin discussed how there are no new purchases this spring due to a lack of Perkins funding, however there is still a need for equipment as these programs move into the new building. She said that STA is open to working with industry partners for donations of equipment. Currently these programs have great equipment but it is getting old. Obtaining new equipment will now be harder given the changes in tariffs. She stated that the

hope is that older items can go to Ingenuity to help them with supplies. Jeff added that this would be a great opportunity for partners to make sure that students are trained on certain equipment if that equipment is donated.

Eric did mentioned how programs that get Perkins funding are required to have advisory meetings twice a year. As CM does not currently get Perkins funding, there could be an opportunity to change the meetings or even change the format of the meetings. He said that there is not a current plan in mind but that this could be considered moving forward.

IV. Old Business Susan spoke about common course numbering between CNM and UNM, as she has talked with Eric about this before. CNM and UNM are the only higher education institutions in New Mexico with CM programs. She would like to improve that for the spring and will speak with Eric and Sionna so they can coordinate.

V. New Business Margaret spoke more on internships and employment through WCS. She mentioned that the division offers subsidized funding for internships, allowing employers to pay students a minimum of $15 an hour while receiving reimbursement for a portion of that cost. Additionally, she noted the importance of these internships for students, particularly those facing challenging circumstances. She also outlined documents required by employers as well as requiring a mid-term and final check-in that WCS can help support. WCS has a career fair coming up on April 10th. Margaret also talked about work with Parker Dewey to hold micro-internships. WCS will post an opportunity for a student and Parker Dewey will pay for the student to do 25 hours of work for the micro-internship. Interested partners can contact Margaret for further information and can go to https://info.parkerdewey.com/cnm/program.

Erin spoke on the Learning Outcomes to show what skills are being taught for each program. CM has been revamping their curriculum over the past two years and she is hoping to do the same for Carpentry once the full-time position is filled. She asked that partners look at the Learning Outcomes and encouraged any questions or suggestions.

Susan asked about the Pre-Construction Certificate and whether or not it is built into both AAS and AS or if it would require additional classes. Eric said that it is embedded and said that they need to do more marketing for Pre-Construction specifically as students don't seem to be aware of this avenue. Susan said that UNM has 2-3 classes taken at CNM and if there is a potential for students to do Pre-Construction and use that as a bridge to a Bachelor's degree. Eric agreed that this would be a great opportunity, especially as it would have a point of completion that might encourage students to enroll. Susan said she might fold in her UNM advisement contact for meetings so he can better discuss CNM's programs with UNM students.

Sionna also mentioned it could be good to do inventory on software in program and coordinate with what is used at UNM to be aligned. Eric mentioned the current software being used and said that it has been very useful and is also free to students- he tries to make it as accessible as possible but is still up to any suggestions from partners.

Johnny asked if drones are being utilized. Eric said that this is more used in GIS, UAS, and Construction Documentation. They are trying to connect all of those at the moment- it is in early stages but the goal is to make it easier for gaining student understanding and creating universal knowledge between the three clusters. Susan added that she and her colleagues have been seeing a need for people that have high-tech knowledge- this might be an opportunity to connect with someone about the design cluster. Eric said that there is a lot of opportunity for growth in this area, especially from a cross-disciplinary standpoint.

VI. Reports from Industry Members: Antonio echoed how software in the field is becoming much more prevalent in constructions. He said that FBT has been very busy with multiple projects.

Derek said that Wilson and Co has a lot of openings at the moment. He wants students to know about this opportunity and that they should know their options as they have plenty of openings in ABQ and Las Cruces. There is the need for new blood in the industry. He will look more into the internship opportunities to get more people involved, especially for design. Eric asked about students finishing school before taking a position. Derek said that they encourage students to stay in school and will work with their schedule if they are hired before finishing.

Melodee gave updates on APS' work with trades. APS just had their annual trades fair in March. It was attended by over 1000 APS high schools. CNM, the local carpenter's union, and Builders of Central New Mexico were among the vendors present at the event. The vendors present talked to students about possible career pathways for students and gave them clear information on what they would need to pursue those pathways. APS CTE was also present with job opportunities and internships. Melodee has been sharing our flyers and information at every high school community meeting to spread the word about all of our programs! She also reported that 822 students will be graduating from APS this spring and so many of them are already on the CNM pathway. She will try to get a final number in a couple of weeks as they are still in flux. She also announced that United Way and APS are partnering to spread information on trades and are starting a trades program targeting 8th graders- she noted that Van Buren middle school is especially interested in Carpentry and Construction.

Taylor reported that she is a former student and this is her first time attending. She will take WCS' internship information back to Souder Miller- she excited to hear all the different perspectives from the committee and is excited to work with us!

Johnny reported that Brycon is doing well. He said that effects from world events will trickle down to him last as it will start with the design half of his field. Brycon is very busy at the moment and everyone is short people at the moment. There are some large projects in the state right now but they are slow-going due to resources. The electrical side of the business has suffered after the pandemic, mostly for availability reasons. People are what they need most at the moment- hopefully something that CNM can assist with.

VII. Adjournment: Adjourned at 1:14 pm