



DETC - Advisory Committee Minutes, Fall 2025

Date: 12/5/25

Number of Attendees: 12

Called to order: 2:03 pm

Adjourned: 2:49 pm

Chairperson: Eric Worthen

Recorder: Katherine Meagher

Location: KW 206/Zoom

Members present from industry: John Bronisz- Wagner Equipment (online), Dave Gerken- Snap-On Industrial, Jesse McKay- Wagner Equipment (online), Melodee Saiz- APS

Members present from CNM: Curtis Garand- Director, Sionna Grassbaugh- Interim Dean, Erin Johnson-Kruft- AVPEL (online), Katherine Meagher- Instructor, Margaret Ortega- WCS, Angela Perez- Advisement, Dan Price- PT Instructor, Eric Worthen- Instructor

Next scheduled meeting: TBD

I. Welcome/Introductions: Started at 2:03. Introductions were had.

II. Minutes: Minutes from Spring 25 were accepted.

III. Reports:

- 1. College Updates:** Sionna gave college-wide updates, highlighting that this year marks CNM's 60th anniversary. The 60th anniversary celebrations are currently winding down as we are reaching the end of the Fall 25 term. 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. Diesel will move to the same wing, so we are looking for a new space for the program in the meantime.



There are also plenty of part-time faculty positions 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! She also noted that we are seeing improvements in KPIs, though they are not moving as quickly as needed to meet the currently established strategic plan. CNM is also looking at different strategies to reach different and wider audiences, especially as New Mexico is seeing fewer high school graduates. CNM is specifically looking into how to involve the older population, especially those who are looking to make a change in their careers.

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! Spring registration is now open, so please spread the word!

2. **Enrollment and Graduation rates:** Curtis spoke on enrollment and graduation rates. In Fall 2024, there were 103 students enrolled in the Diesel program with a fill rate of 80%. This Fall, the fill rate started strong at 91%, especially after the program added new instructors to oversee the new evening cohort. 152 seats out of 176 in that cohort were filled. The fill rate has since gone down to 86%, which is still an improvement. The program is still limited on space, but they are experimenting with schedules to achieve better enrollment. The evening cohort and instructor availability have already helped to increase enrollment and retention, which has been amazing.
3. **Equipment:** Eric gave updates on equipment. The program has received 5 new trucks including a couple of 2021 and 2022 Peterbilts, a 2019 freightliner Cascadia, a 2009 freightliner Cascadia from Ingenuity, and a 2000 Volvo donated by the ABQ Water Authority. He is very excited to utilize these trucks and potentially add more as the program has recently finished the equipment replacement process. This equipment will help the program stay up to date on the newest in the field.

IV. Old Business NA

V. New Business Eric announced that Mark Craver, one of our committee members, has now joined CNM as an instructor. He, along with Juan Martinez, are teaching the previously mentioned evening cohort. This cohort has had strong retention rates and has given the program flexibility. Starting these classes at 6 pm has allowed their students to work full time and still go to school. It is a slower-paced class, but the opportunity for students is the point. The hope going forward is to continue this cohort in every first term, similar to the Automotive program. The night cohort has also improved enrollment in the Diesel program. He also mentioned that Dan has been with us for a year and a half now and his help has been instrumental in running the program.



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Eric stated that with the new cohort starting in the spring, they are seeing good fill rates and only have 3 seats left for their afternoon classes. Curtis spoke about the upcoming move, saying that they are trying to hold onto as much of TC as they can. Diesel has acquired some of the old spaces in the building to use as an engine rebuilding lab and said that hopefully, the program can utilize Automotive's space once they move to Rio Rancho.

Eric also said that they are looking ahead and are hoping to offer the Interim Electrical evening classes during the summer term. This would be the first time in a long time that summer classes have been held by the Diesel program as they now have the faculty for it.

Margaret talked about internships and employment through WCS. Employers are encouraged to post their job openings on HireCNM - our free job board. She also mentioned that the division offers subsidized funding for internships, allowing employers to pay students a minimum of \$15 an hour and receive a reimbursement of \$12 an hour. The time period is 10 - 20 weeks, dependent on the number of hours the student is available. Additionally, she noted the importance of Work-Based learning opportunities for students. She also outlined documents required by employers as well as requiring a mid-term and final check-in with the student intern. There will also be a career fair in April 2026. She also spoke about a colleague that runs job shadowing, so job shadow opportunities are available! She 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>.

VI. Reports from Industry Members: John asked if the program works with canned interlink ethernet. Eric stated that he would appreciate the support from John on this frontier. John said he was happy to help and added that CAT has added to their datalink class and ethernet process. He said that they are really needing to see workers have some level of awareness that this exists, especially as new CAT machines are using them.

Melodee gave updates on APS, especially after the bond went through. The APS CTE building is being built off of Osuna and should be ready in about a year. She is unsure if this would be utilized for full-time students in trades or if students would be there part-time, but details are forthcoming. The Albuquerque Academies are still going strong and will eventually involve all 13 APS high schools. On Monday, December 8th, APS will be holding their own Fall advisory meeting at Berna Facio, at 8:30 am. 11 industry representatives will be present, including some from Automotive, Design and Digital Arts, Media Production, and Welding. Over 55 community partners have reserved spots as have a handful of CNM's directors and program managers. APS has also been working with United Way for the past year or so to hold career exploration events at APS middle schools. They have been folding in trades and multiple colleges. They have already worked with 6 middle schools this fall and will work with 6 more in the spring.

Dave said that Snap-On and Procut have come out with an on-car/truck lathe that supports trucks, firetrucks, buses, and other such vehicles. He offered to get us a demo if we are interested. He also spoke on a new prolink scan tool that has a newer operating system and is WiFi capable. He is seeing more gateways with trucks and assured the committee that Snap-On is up to date on the issues. A difficulty they encounter with this new tool is getting the end user to go through the registration process as these tools are cloud verified. If you are not a verified user, this will prevent access to the truck. He also emphasized the importance of keeping tool software up to date. It is currently hard for him to keep track of who is up to date and who is registered, but he is looking at easier solutions. Snap-On is also adding a new software and, while there is no current support for off-highway equipment, there is talk of heading in that direction.

Jesse shared that he is still getting used to his role with Wagner and wants to be more involved with CNM moving forward. He asked if our programs are moving towards electric vehicles, as that seems to be the direction the industry is



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moving in. Eric stated that they are encouraging all transportation students to pursue multiple programs and become more well-rounded. For example, a student can start in Diesel and then transfer to Auto or EV. Curtis talked more about the EV program, sharing his experience with the recent EV bootcamp from this past term. He also spoke on the credited and noncredited efforts to build the program and involve industry, stating that they are currently leading the state in the best EV program. Jesse said that this is great to hear and is happy to see cross-training be utilized.

John reminded everyone that Skills USA will be held on March 20th. They are still looking for judges, so please spread the word. Eric said he will be sending out requests for judges soon and will get together with John later to discuss, especially as the in-house competition is happening soon. Eric also took a moment to explain the Skills USA competition to our new members. Jesse volunteered to be a judge for the competition. John welcomed the support and will be in touch.

VII. Adjournment: Sionna praised Eric and Curtis for their leadership and strides in their programs as all of the recent changes are not easy changes to make! She looks forward to seeing what else they do in the future. Angela echoed this as she had met with multiple students that said that they would prefer evening classes, so this night cohort has been sorely needed. She is happy to help the program connect with students.

Adjourned at 2:49 pm.