



FILM/FDMA - Advisory Committee Minutes, Spring 2025

Date: 3/11/25

Number of Attendees: 25

Called to order: called to order at 12:04 pm

Adjourned: 1:29 pm

Chairperson: Alan Trever/Dani Belvin

Recorder: Katherine Meagher

Location: ATC 108/Zoom

Members present from industry: **Kat Bloom**- Vault Media (zoom), **Susan Chaudoir**- NM PED CCRB Coach (zoom), **Anthony Conforti**- Media Arts Collaborative Charter School, **Teresa Dominguez**- RFK Charter School, **Brian Fosnaugh**- Cinelease, **Rosey Hayett**- Film Prize Jr NM, **Liz Marshall**- Local 480, **Cyndy McCrossen**- CABQ Film Office Liaison, **Candice Neu**- Katharsis Media, **Tom Ragan**- The Studio @WESST, **Julius Roanhorse**- National Indian Youth Council, **John Rodarte**- NM Academy for Media Arts (zoom), **Mark Ryan**- APS Career Enrichment Center, **Mark Steinig**- Maleko Grip (zoom), **Ivan Wiener**- AFMX

Members present from CNM: **Dani Belvin**- Associate Dean, **Kelly Diaz**- Instructor, **Jeanette Loera**- Instructor, **Katherine Meagher**- ATA, **Andy Nyikos**- Film Tech, **Ashley Prelo**- WCS Outreach, **Rudi Rossiter**- Instructor, **Andrew Swan**- Instructor, **Alan Trever**- Program Director/Instructor, **Jose Velez**- Instructor

Next scheduled meeting: TBD

I. **Welcome/Introductions:** Meeting called to order at 12:04 pm, introductions were made. Jose highlighted an upcoming event targeting AI usage in class and spoke briefly about utilizing AI in assignments.

II. **Minutes:** Minutes from previous meeting accepted.

III. Reports:

1. **College Updates:** Alan gave updates on the upcoming Railyards building. The skeleton of the building is being built and there are tours being planned for faculty and staff in the near future. He expects for the Film program to move in Spring 2026 and for classes to be held there in Fall 2026. Currently, the plan is to also host activities and festivals in the building. A 100-seat theater is being planned for which will be used for training, class lectures, film screenings, and professional performances. Andrew mentioned that there are also plans for a sound mixing room in the same theater. Alan and Dani hope to host the Fall 2025 advisory at the facility in order to give partners a tour. Alan also mentioned that theater screens were donated as well as a large projector- that projector will be utilized for outdoor film screenings. Overall, he is proud that the program provides a strong curriculum and that they are able to give students hands-on training. We are very lucky to have partners like Brian and Liz that help to provide such training in addition to equipment.



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Dani spoke on the larger updates with STA including the new Skilled Trades building on main campus, which will have a grand opening in September. 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. There has been a high demand for some of our programs while others need help with recruitment. Overall, these increases are good, even with lacking a budget for marketing. 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.

Overall, CNM is still committed to their values and the goal to create a sense of belonging for anyone that wants to learn. Dani 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:** Alan discussed the current enrollment for the program. There are 232 students enrolled for the Associate of Arts, 73 enrolled for the Film Crew Technician Certificate, 241 enrolled for Film Production Associate of Applied Science, and 233 for the Digital Media (AAS). Graduation information is forthcoming. Data on growth between this year and last will be reviewed as well.
3. **Equipment:** The program is always looking for new equipment and is currently in process of receiving the last of Perkins funded items. In a couple of weeks, they will be submitting what they will need for Railyards site. Faculty will be informing Alan on what equipment they will be needing before the move. Netflix Studios have also been in contact and said that if we get access to a high-end embroidery machine. Alan is currently looking into getting such a machine. He is also looking at getting a new DMX board and will provide full training, partnering with DMX licensed partners and Local 480. He emphasized the importance of partners providing feedback on what equipment is needed so that they can stay aligned with industry needs. Liz offered use of Local 480's sewing lab if needed and Cyndy suggested investing in an older washer-dryer set for clothing and costuming, specifically for setting dyes.

IV. Old Business none

V. **New Business** Ashley 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. There



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will also be a trades fair aimed towards women in trades on March 29th from 1 pm to 4 pm. Ashley 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. It is still very new and contract details are still being worked out but it is a very exciting partnership that could work very well in the Film industry. Interested partners can contact Ashley for further information. She also reminded everyone that these internships under WCS aren't just limited to film crew- interns can also be office workers if needed. Alan emphasized the importance of having these pathway partnerships for students and industry partners to offset costs.

Alan discussed upcoming changes to curriculum. In about 8 months to a year, there will be a major revamp of the curriculum. This will include moving to a common core numbering system come Fall 2025. They will also be looking at additional and new certificates in art, cinematography, film-making, and audio.

There are also a few upcoming events. Film will have a booth at Film and Media Day at the Roundhouse, sponsored by Local 480 this Thursday (3/13) from 9 am-12 pm. The entire event goes from 8 am-4 pm. On April 5th, the Film Prize Jr. Festival will be held, displaying new projects. The NM Film Office will also be meeting at the Clive Hotel, formerly known the downtown Hyatt, and will be bringing back the Film Educational Summit Expo on May 31st.

VI. Reports from Industry Members: Liz reported that there are multiple members working on their ETC certifications for rigging electrics. Local 480 has been involved in a year-long collaboration with Santa Fe College in building a backlot just off of their campus. This project has been involving students, Union instructors, and has been utilizing Santa Fe College's film construction certificate. Hopefully this will open up pathways for training for Head of Department and Film Crew positions. Local 480 also recently hosted a health and wellness fair for union members.

Julius announced that there will be a film fair in Gallup on April 30th at Red Rocks State Park. He encouraged committee members to attend. He will also be attending Film Prize Jr. this spring.

Tom discussed how The Studio @WESST has been impacted by federal grants as 54% of their funding comes from those grants. They now have a new president, who also founded the Paws and Stripes non-profit. They are working on getting more CNM interns into their studio for this year. They have around 4-5 incubator and anchor tenants and are trying to figure out how to share interns internally. Tom said that they are already in talks with Ashley and will be meeting with her soon. The Studio is trying to get funding for two programs- a live studio audience production and a documentary-focused production. Tom is also the board president of the NM Film Foundation and is trying to get funding for workshops, trainings, and presentations hosted by industry professionals. There will also be a fundraiser in July and Ford raffle happening May 31st.

Brian discussed the support he has already given the program, including supplying gear. He is interested in the intern opportunities and would like to assist with it.

Rosey, director of Film Prize Jr., discussed the details of the upcoming film festival. Film Prize Jr. will be held on April 4th and 5th at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Over 200 films from 90 schools will be featured. The festival will include a career expo, discussion panels, and an awards ceremony to celebrate student achievements. The awards ceremony will be held on Sunday, April 6th in the Kiva Auditorium from 10 am to 12 pm. Advisory members are welcome to attend.

Mark Ryan from the APS Career Enrichment Center shared his experiences with student films and emphasized the importance of providing opportunities for students in the media field.

Anthony invited everyone to the Spring Media Expo at the New Mexico Academy for the Media Arts, taking place on Wednesday, March 12th, from 4-6 pm. It will include films and artwork created by students. He also spoke on his student's recent work on a documentary concerning the adolescent mental health crisis and how that got the attention of the state legislature. He found that this experience helped his students realize how they can spotlight issues they care



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about through the medium of film, ultimately giving them more of a voice. Anthony also recounted a recent opportunity for students to visit the filming of *Lone Wolf*, where they interacted with the crew, including Bryan Cranston. The experience was particularly impactful as it allowed students to see a former peer in a professional role, reinforcing their aspirations in the film industry. He emphasized the importance of such experiences in motivating students. He also emphasized the importance of creating a high school version of certificates of completion for film to recognize students' qualifications and experiences. He proposed a career pathway for students who complete four years of high school, while also discussing the need to engage students before they turn 18.

Ivan announced that there will be a networking event at UN17 on March 20th at 6 pm and that everyone in the film and music industry in Albuquerque is welcome to attend. Prizes will be given out, including passes to the film festival in September. He then spoke more on the festival coming up in fall. Students from CNM, UNM, and multiple high and middle schools will be able to attend the festival for free thanks to their sponsors. There will be two contests coming up- a poster contest and a screenplay contest. He encouraged that those in the school community spread the word about the poster contest as they would love to see work from New Mexico. There are cash prizes for the poster contest- \$1000 for first place, \$500 for second place, and \$250 for third. For the screenplay contest, participants can submit a screenplay up to 15 pages long for a cash prize and the winner's film will be screened at the UNM Film Festival. Currently, around 110 have already been submitted, 60 of which are from New Mexico. Students will have to pay \$25 to enter but Ivan asked that he be made aware if students cannot afford this fee as they can possibly waive it. The deadline is April 17th. Volunteers are also needed to help read and screen submissions.

Cyndy said that things have been quiet production wise and they have been running a lot of commercials recently. She suggested that it might be best to consider offering a permitting workshop as well as a finance course as she's seen that many people in the industry don't fully understand the processes of getting permits or finances for their films. She reported that the city is interested in addressing sexual harassment in the industry and if training or even having an intimacy coordinator on set would help with that issue. She also suggested the possibility of having a speaker come into classes to help prepare students for this possibility. Kat also suggested integrating a therapist to have onset in order to diffuse tense situations. Cyndy also emphasized the importance of not filming at the Railyards due to current construction.

Candice reported that Katharsis Media currently has 12 pre-apprentices in high school and college, 3 general short-term interns, and 4 registered apprentices that are paid full time. 3 out of those registered apprentices are CNM students. They are hoping to increase the number of registered apprentices to 6 as funding only allows them to have so many. They will be opening 4 slots for high school students for summer and bringing in 4 more CNM interns on Wednesday, March 12th. Katharsis Media got to work on the film *Love in the Air* in December and brought on apprentices to work on set. They will also be holding a gala-fundraiser on June 7th including a pitch panel with directors of *The Flash* and other high profile shows. Candice also spoke for the Alliance of Community Media West which oversees and advocates for public media centers as well as public access. The Alliance of Community Media West also helps with building apprenticeships. Katharsis is also working with Northern New Mexico College to move further north and piloted their first remote internship with a student there. They are glad to collaborate with CNM, APS, and the rest of our committee.

Kat is working on plenty of projects coming up. There will be a networking event on March 29th with Creative Industries and everyone is invited. It is more of an influencer event but film, music, and education will also be folded in. There will be an opportunity to learn new AI tools as well. There will be plenty of guest speakers and more information will be on their Instagram.

John thanked us for opportunities as he is always looking for internship opportunities for his students. He looks forward to developing more relationships with everyone present.



VII. Adjournment: Adjourned at 1:29 pm