



HVAC/PLMB - Advisory Committee Minutes, Spring 2025

Date: 3/5/25

Number of Attendees: 22

Called to order: 1:31 pm

Adjourned: 2:42 pm

Chairperson: Jan Loving

Recorder: Katherine Meagher

Location: ATC 108/Zoom

Members present from industry: **Chris Acosta**- Loving and Associates, **Jason Bodley**- Marshall-Rodeno Associated, **Jimmy Davis**- Four Seasons P& H, **Jan Loving**- Loving and Associates, **Eric Maxon**- Steward's Plumbing Inc, **Phillip Ramirez**- HDL&M Construction Services (zoom), **Kyle Redford**- Anderson Air Corps/DBA Action Air, **Mark Reilly**- R&B Commercial Service, **Melodee Saiz**- APS (zoom), **Raymond Trujillo**- JATC 412 (zoom)

Members present from CNM: **Arlo Abbott**- instructor, **Katelyn Attanasio**- Ingenuity, **Jim Chong**- Instructor, **Phelan Gavaldon**- Instructor (zoom), **Erin Johnson-Kruft**- Dean, **Samuel Kerwin**- IT (zoom), **Katherine Meagher**- ATA, **Margaret Ortega**- WCS, **David Ortiz**- Lab Manager, **Roderigo Padilla**- Associate Dean, **Alan Peterson**- Instructor, **Cynthia Ramirez-Gurule**- ATA

Next scheduled meeting: TBA

I. Welcome/Introductions: Meeting started at 1:31 pm, everyone introduced themselves.

II. Minutes: Minutes were approved.

III. Reports:

- 1. College Updates:** Erin reported: The new building for STA is being finalized. There will be a tour on March 12th and the grand opening is slated for either September or October. Updates will be provided as they come.

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!

Erin 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. There have also been national cluster changes with the Perkins grant and many clusters are being



revamped. The cluster that HVAC and Plumbing belong to, however, was not selected. Hopefully that selection will be reversed in about a year.

Erin also brought up that since the birth rate going down in the country, fewer high school graduates will be coming to CNM. Erin stated that STA will have to enhance their recruitment strategies and target adults looking to go back to school. Additionally, she mentioned the importance of dual credit programs moving forward. She also encouraged partners to urge their CNM interns and employees to stay in school in order to improve completion rates.

2. **Enrollment and Graduation rates:** Roderigo 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.

In regards to enrollment, Skilled Trades and Arts has seen a 1.1% increase. The HVAC program currently has a 73% fill rate, which is up 21% from Spring 2024's fill rate of 52%. Roderigo attributes this increase to the program having more instructors and resources. The Plumbing program has stayed steady, going from a fill rate of 89% in Spring 2024 to a rate of 80% Spring of 2025. In regards to graduations, from Spring 2024 to Fall 2024, 25 certificates were awarded in the HVAC program and 13 students in the program received their Associates. In Plumbing, 11 certificates were awarded and 2 students received their Associates. The lack of students gaining their Associates is due to the fact that the Associates degree is no longer offered in the program. Numbers are lower in the Plumbing program in general as there is only one current instructor. CNM is in the process of hiring a new Part-time Plumbing instructor for this reason and our team is always looking for more, even in HVAC. Roderigo referred any interested parties present to visit the CNM Jobs website for further information.

Jimmy Davis asked if it is required that instructors have an Associates in order to be hired as an HVAC instructor. Jim said that per the HVAC accreditation, either an HVAC Associate Degree or 600 hours of HVAC training from an accredited institute is acceptable. Ray also inquired whether or not a license is acceptable in lieu of those hours and/or an Associate's degree, especially in the case of a highly experienced individual. Jim affirmed that yes, a license and/or certification is also acceptable. Jan expressed that in the past, many of her industry people have been reluctant to apply for an instructor position since they do not have a degree. Roderigo and Erin both stated that as long as they have the requirements that Jim put forth, they should be able to apply. If they are unsure, they can always inquire.

3. **Equipment:** No major updates aside from new building and new equipment coming with it. A lot of old equipment is being moved to the new building. Jan encouraged anyone who hasn't seen the building to go and take a tour! Arlo and Jim spoke on the process of getting equipment, including 2 chillers, a carrier, and air handlers. They are also looking at getting a high efficiency boiler. Mark asked if donations are an option- Erin said that he can contact the CNM foundation but it is best to speak with Roderigo directly. Dave spoke on how it is still a process of deciding what things are going over and what's not so some things are not as solid. Alan has a meeting tomorrow to go over equipment so no updates on plumbing quite yet.

Jim spoke on the upcoming Skills USA event. Skills USA will be on Friday, March 28th from 8 am to 2 or 3 pm on CNM's Main Campus. He encouraged partners to donate prizes as there will be total of 6 prizes. He also



encouraged partners to come and connect with students for possible employment. There is also a general need for volunteers and judges. Katelyn mentioned that Ingenuity is still looking for sponsors for the event, anyone interested can contact her.

Erin also mentioned Women in Trades event March 29th along with a mini trades fair, the day after the Skills USA event. Margaret mentioned that WCS is offering tables for the event.

IV. Old Business: Roderigo addressed the renewal of 6-year accreditation and the lab visit for that is now scheduled on April 7th, from 8 am to 3 pm. There is a need for at least 2 advisory committee members to meet with accreditors, based on the committee members' schedules. Jan spoke more on the experience as she has done it before and she also volunteered tentatively. Jimmy also tentatively accepted. A tour of the new building will also be folded in with this visit. Jan also spoke on the importance of highlighting the positivity in New Mexico, especially with the strides that CNM is making in this state.

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. March 12th-19th is also Job Shadow Week, which could be a great opportunity for students to gain field experience. There will also be a trades fair aimed towards women in trades on March 29th from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Erin outlined the purpose of learning outcomes. Jim said that these will be updated once we have the new accreditation as there have been many changes- they should hopefully be updated by fall. Jason asked if CNM offers opportunities for a new product in industry to be folded into the curriculum. Erin said that Ingenuity is a great resource to utilize to fold these things into curriculum and to keep in mind that faculty are limited on time. Jim added that having guest speakers can also be helpful.

VI. Reports from Industry Members: Jan said that she spoke with Tamara Kuykendall recently. Tamara reported to her that the 2024 Plumbing Union Code is currently under review. Updates will be forthcoming but licensing changes should be expected.

Ray Trujillo reported that the application window for JATC 412 opens tomorrow (3/6). He expressed his love for CNM as a former instructor and tries to maintain a policy of not poaching from the program. If applicants are from CNM, he tells them to finish the program **first** and then apply. If they finish the program, they will get advanced placement for the apprenticeship. Phelan asked if there is a test involved in this process- Ray said that students mostly need their certificate but the interview for the apprenticeship does include a basic math test and a judgement assessment including



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scenarios in a work-environment. He stated that another important skill students should have is the ability to read a tape measurer but overall, the candidates that he has gotten from CNM have been solid and well-educated.

Melodee reported that APS just got approval for their 1st pre-accreditation program in cooperation with West Mesa High School, ABC Community School, the Department of Workforce Solutions, and the Pipefitter's Union. This is to prepare students to enter the plumber's union as well as other skilled trades construction pathways. The Union transports West Mesa students to the program and their first hub is already underway. These students are in the program for about 10 hours per week. She also discussed the annual trades fair for APS. There will be over 100 vendors present, including CNM. The fair will take place on March 25th, from 9 am to 1 pm at Berna Facio. Partners can reach out to Melodee if interested in participating.

Eric Maxon announced that he will be meeting with legislators in DC in May in order to encourage funding for trades programs.

Jan asked about possibly changing meeting time, possibly as early as 8 am. Eric said 8 am might be too early but 9 am would work perfectly. The committee agreed that 9 am would be the best start time. Ray said Fridays used to be the day for instructors since there were little to no classes. Going forward into Fall 2025, scheduling the meetings on Fridays in the early morning will be prioritized.

VII. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 2:42 pm.