



MATT - Advisory Committee Minutes, Fall 2025

Date: 9/17/2025

Number of Attendees: 20

Called to order: 2:02 pm

Adjourned: 3:39 pm

Chairperson: William Hatch

Recorder: Katherine Meagher

Location: TTC 115/Zoom

Members present from industry: Kendal Billau- LAD Engineering LLC, Nicholas Blodgett- Stainless Motors, Lucas Bulow- Manufacturing Technologies, Anita Campbell- ABQ Regional Economic Alliance, Kelly Denison- Continental Machine (online), Mike Hahn- Magnum Precision (online), Michael Hudson- Serbin Machine (online), Ed Kuyper- Reytek, John Lamar- LANL, Isaac Milford- Kairos Power (online), Melodee Saiz- APS, Lawrence Simons- LANL, Lettie Thompson- Thompson Machine (online)

Members present from CNM: Sionna Grassbaugh- Interim Dean, William Hatch- Chair/Instructor, Jonesy Herrera- ATA, Erin Joseph- Interim Associate Dean, Amardeep Kahlon- VP of Education and Learning, Katherine Meagher- ATA, Jessica Metz- CNM, Ashley Prelo- WCS

Next scheduled meeting: TBD

I. Welcome/Introductions: Meeting called to order at 2:02 pm. Introductions were made.

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 start 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 classes will be held in the new building starting 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.

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!

Amardeep spoke about Advanced Manufacturing at CNM as well as micro-credentials. She emphasized the importance of Advanced Manufacturing and that it is a priority program at CNM right now, especially since manufacturing is experiencing the most employee shortages combined with the highest employer demand in the state. CNM is committed to meeting the demand of the community and she thanked our partners for being present today to help with that commitment. Our enrollment has gone up thanks to the combined efforts of our staff and our community partners!

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:** Erin gave an update on enrollment and graduation rates for the Machine Tool program as a whole. As of this fall, there are 69 students enrolled in the Machine Tool program, including 13 pursuing the basic certificate and 34 pursuing the degree. The average for enrollment for the new cohort is 14 students while the range is 10-19 students. There are 6 students projected to graduate the degree program this fall and 1 student is projected to earn their certificate. For Spring 2026, it is projected that 3 students will graduate with their degree. Overall, there has been a 22% increase in enrollment for fall 25, a 33% increase for spring 25, and a 37% increase for summer 25- this is since 2023.

Will expanded on these numbers by talking about recruitment efforts and funding. He has been attending multiple recruitment events, trade shows, and has also gone to high schools in order to drum up interest in the program. He discussed a recent grant that will be used to provide funding for out-reach and advertising for the program as well as a grant in progress that will provide funds to hire a full-time Machine Tool recruiter. He also said that he is exploring the possibility of offering classes in the evenings and on weekends in order to attract more students to the program. He also answered questions on the typical graduating terms, saying that the program awards certificates every term and graduates with degrees vary each term. He also mentioned that one of our full-time instructors will be leaving so the program will be needing more full-time and part-time instructors in order to account for future growth. There is a posting currently active for positions for any interested parties!

3. **Equipment:** Will discussed the new equipment being purchased through Perkins funding and grant funding. Under Perkins, the program will be receiving:
 - A heat shrink machine to align with industry standards and expose students to multiple kinds of tool holding
 - A digital precision height gauge (Trimos) to allow students to quickly make accurate and precise measurements
 - New vices (Kurt DX6) for all mills to align with industry standards



- 3D printers to expose students to additive manufacturing

Under the LANL PWDI Grant, the program will also be receiving:

- A Babin Tool Maker Lathe (HLV-H Clone) to allow students to make tight tolerance parts on a manual lathe
- A scanning head for CMM to expose students to inspection equipment commonly found in the industry

There is also a NSF grant that has not been rewarded to the program quite yet. Once that is awarded, the program can expect to receive:

- A lab-grade anodizing station to teach students a skill that is in high demand in the local industry
- A Mazak I100-HSTN mill turn to expose students to advanced machining equipment and upskill the current workforce

Ashley Prelo also sent out letters of cooperation to assist with curriculum on this equipment, so please speak with her if you haven't already!

IV. Old Business Will spoke about a summer camp he took part in with Explora. This camp served grades 8-12. Will reported that many students were interested in dual credit after the camp concluded. He is hoping to continue to do more events and activities like this in order to appeal to younger students- the hope is that these kinds of events will help engage younger students sooner and set them on a pathway to pursuing trades in the future. For Fall 25, the 1st term classes are completely full! This is the first time he has seen classes this full since he started working with CNM and hopes that we can offer more sections in the future.

V. New Business Ashley 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 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 will be focusing on Manufacturing Month this October and is planning activities in order to increase awareness in our programs and help students with their career plans. She encouraged any interested parties to contact her at aprelo@cnm.edu and to fill out the survey available on the Agenda page of the physical packet (this survey link will be emailed out as well) in order to provide feedback!



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Will spoke on curriculum changes that will take place in Fall 26. The program will be shortened from 5 terms to 4 as he has noticed that students tend to skip the fifth term in order to jump right into their careers. There will also be changes to the Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) for the classes and the current CAD/CAM class will be broken into 2 separate courses to account of the amount of content. The 1st term of the class will focus on SolidWorks, making models and prints, and other skills. The GDNT and Print-Reading courses will also be combined for ease and better alignment with other courses. This will also occur with the Basics Measuring and Math courses for a better use of time. In fall 26, Machine Tool will be moving to the Open Education Resource (OER), with Will and Mark writing their own textbook to have a custom-tailored text for students. This will be aligned to their specific coursework and machines available in the labs. This should hopefully provide an easy point of access for students and save them money at the Bookstore. They will also be rolling out their competency-based education approach. Students will be taking classes at their own pace, allowing them to move ahead if they are mastering the content faster than their fellow students. He also spoke more on micro-credentialing in Machine Tool. He is looking into a basic measuring tools credential as well as a credential from Hexagon for programming and Hex CMM. He is also looking into Haas credentials for lathes and is considering the possibility of creating CNM-specific credentials. Once again, as the program will be losing a full-time instructor, we are looking for someone with multi-access machining experience as the term goes on.

After the discussion last spring with the committee and with administration, the program's NIMS certification expired. Will mentioned that it wasn't being actively used and that had become a detriment with how much it cost. We still see the importance of NIMS but it currently does not suit our curriculum. The above-mentioned curriculum changes should not disrupt students in the middle of their learning- they can choose to stay on the same track or switch to new system once these changes take effect. This change should also help students save money as they will not have to pay for a fifth term, as tuition for 12-18 credits is a flat rate of \$840. Luckily, we are receiving a lot of funding and Dan Schatzman with Jaguar Precision has committed to sponsor 5 students- we welcome more like this!

Sionna said that they are investigating ways to co-teach with industry partners in sessions in order to give students more exposure to the industry. Any volunteers are welcome!

VI. Reports from Industry Members: Jessica with CNM Ingenuity discussed contract trainings with employers. Business owners can contact Ingenuity to hold special trainings that focus on up-scaling. This training will be funded by Ingenuity and they can help with specific classes. Ingenuity has also been working with the department of Workforce Solutions for apprenticeships. Please contact Jessica Metz (jmetz9@cnm.edu) if you are interested in working with Ingenuity.

Anita spoke about the barriers that students face that keep them from taking jobs and staying at a company after their apprenticeship is over. Her organization can help employers with on-boarding and funding through JTIP. Employers can always earn an extra 5% back through JTIP if they hire someone from Workforce Solutions.

Lucas reported that his company is doing well, though they have a need people in all aspects like quality control and clerical. They need people who are willing to put in the time and train well. He said he sees a lot of students start in one place and end up somewhere completely different- students can easily move to better positions in his experience. He is dedicated to try and help with everything he has heard today and wants to use his resources to help get skilled people into trades!

Nicholas reported that business has been flat since last year, but they did see record revenue and shipping last month and are up 24% in productivity! Tariffs have hit Stainless Motors hard as their supplies come from Taiwan and they have struggled with getting quality help- they had to outsource simple machining to Taiwan so their complex machining has stayed in house. This means that they are in need of highly experienced machinists. Depending on how things go, they may have to bring simple machining back from Taiwan but that presents issues with getting people employed. He has



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also observed an issue with new hires not conducting themselves well in the work-place and asked if there is a culture problem that could be addressed in schools?

Melodee from Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) talked about APS' efforts to bring trades into schools. One of these efforts are the Albuquerque Academies at three different high schools. These academies will be promoting engagement in trades and supporting students in career pathways. She also spoke on the partnership APS has with United Way. 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. They will be holding more of these events on September 30th at Taylor Middle School, October 16th at Jackson Middle School, and October 22nd at Kennedy Middle School. These events should help get students engaged with trades and give them an idea of what it is like to be work ready and how to conduct oneself.

John and Lawrence from Los Alamos National Labs (LANL) reported that their budget is looking good! They are looking at recruiting in spring- positions opening March 1st or so, depending on how things shake out. This year, they are on-boarding their class in October with 30 qualified applicants. However, only one of those applicants was from CNM. They are hoping to see more CNM students in future. They will be working with Ashley on recruiting events.

Kendal reported that they recently hired a CNM alumni. He is interested in all of the programs discussed to help with training!

Ed reported that Reytek had a hard fall in 2024, but has still be doing things like trade shows. They are struggling to find qualified people and are working on recruitment tools. He would love to hire interns in Architecture and Revit as well as in data science.

Kelly reported that his company is doing good. He recently connected with Melodee who connected him with United Way and has gone to their middle school events. He will continue to take part in those events. He still could use plenty of people and train them up. He sees a disconnect between students and shops- he suggested that maybe students should be present at these meetings to encourage them to reach out to these specific industry members as students just don't seem to be connecting with employers as of late.

Isaac from Kairos reported that expansion has been good and they have been talking about expanding their programs. They are currently only looking for highly experience machinists but hope they can get to a place where they can work with CNM and hire graduates. He is hoping this can happen in the next couple of years.

Lettie reported that they are short-handed and unfortunately are not in the place where they can cooperate with WCS. Like Kairos, they are looking for experienced full-time employees. She echoed Kelly's points on connecting with students- how can we build that relationship between students and employers?

Mike Hudson agreed with Kelly. He used JTIP and hired two people that way but neither were from CNM. He noted that no one seems to be applying. He suggested a job fair with direct applying or even shop tours as helpful tools. Ed suggested having recruiters at CNM that are recruiting students for positions. Will said that WCS already does work like that but also added that Kelly, Lawrence, and John have come in before to present information to students, so maybe something similar can be done with our other partners on this committee. Ashley added that she can work with employers on job postings and job fairs. Both Will and Ashley have been talking about holding a Machine Tool industry event and feel confident that they can move towards holding that event as interest has increased recently.

Mike Hahn expressed that he is excited to work with CNM and is willing to help in any way that he can.



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VII. Adjournment: Will asked if members are still interested in the monthly meeting as engagement has fallen off recently. There may be a problem with the invite list- this issue will be addressed. He also announced that one of our students will be going to LANL to do a showcase on the program for the other nine machine tool institutions. He is also always looking for assistance with helping students with writing resumes and cover letters- please contact him if you are interested!

Adjourned at 3:39 pm