



MATT - Advisory Committee Minutes, Spring 2026

Date: 1/30/2026

Number of Attendees: 25

Called to order: 2:15 pm

Adjourned: 3:41 pm

Chairperson: Will Hatch

Recorder: Katherine Meagher

Location: TTC 406/Zoom

Members present from industry: Kendal Billau- LAD Engineering LLC (online), Seth Billie- Jaguar Precision Machine, Nicholas Blodgett- Stainless Motors, Lucas Bulow- Manufacturing Technologies Inc, Kelly Denison- Continental Machine, Nick Fiascas- Pro-Fab Inc, Stephanie Georgio- Kairos Power (online), Kyle Johnson- Pro-Fab Inc, Mike Hahn- Magnum Precision (online), Michael Hudson- Serbin Machine (online), John Lamar- LANL, Guillermo Marez- Leidos (online), Andrew Morford- M Tech Machining, Pierce Runnels- Geobruigg (online), Melodee Saiz- APS, Danny White- Moncktons Machine Tool

Members present from CNM: Cara Gallegos- WCS, Sionna Grassbaugh- Interim Dean, Will Hatch- Director, William Hudson- PT Faculty, Erin Joseph- Associate Dean, Katherine Meagher- ATA, Margaret Ortega- WCS, Ian Patrick- Faculty, Telesfor Sanchez- PT Faculty

Next scheduled meeting: TBD

I. Welcome/Introductions: Introductions were made.

II. Minutes: Minutes from Fall 25 were approved.

III. Reports:

- 1. College Updates:** Sionna gave college-wide updates. Enrollment for Skilled Trades and Arts (STA) is up 5%. The NM state legislative session has started and the decisions made will impact college funding. An update on this will be forthcoming once the session has ended. Voting will be held on what clusters will get Perkins funding, including 3 from cluster D. Our proposals will be submitted soon, so she encouraged industry partners to let us know about any relevant conferences or anything to consider before moving forward. Our leadership is also currently working on the class schedule for the 26-27 school year, so input from partners is highly valued! We will be continuing to focus on work-based learning so that students can have those opportunities. There are also multiple moves and events coming up. The Film program will be moving to the Railyards campus and RioTech will house the Auto and EV programs come Fall. Skills USA will be held on March 18th-21st and the Women in Trades event will be held on March 21st. There will also be an Open House for the TTC building on April 11th. Details will be forthcoming.
- 2. Enrollment and Graduation rates:** Erin gave enrollment and graduation updates. Currently, there are 11 students enrolled in Term 1 courses, 14 enrolled in Term 2 courses, and 7 combined across Term 4 and 5 courses. There are currently 8 students with declared majors for the program certificate and 44 for the AAS degree. For the 24-25 academic year, 18 students graduated with the certificate and 9 with the AAS degree. There was also a survey that was sent out to graduates which had positive feedback, with graduates satisfied with their experience. She also highlighted the fact that students can enter the program without a GED and that



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this shouldn't hold anyone back from enrolling. She also mentioned the HAAS Scholarship, which was established to provide tools to students at no cost to them. They are also currently partnering with Los Alamos National Labs (LANL) to create a summer recruitment camp but would love to partner with more industry partners in the future. She emphasized the opportunity for internships and said that industry feedback is essential.

3. **Equipment:** Will spoke on equipment updates, saying that they recently put in request for one more manual mill and one more manual lathe to have an entire lab filled with fresh equipment. They are also in the process of buying a mini CNC lathe that can be taken to recruitment events.

IV. Old Business Will addressed old business. Last meeting, he mentioned that Dan Schatzman was paying for students to go to school and he is continuing to do so. Kelly and Sierra Peaks are also funding students to come to classes. He would love to partner with more people like this. They are still working on new lab at the Advanced Technology Center (ATC). Machine Tool will occupy the space that Film will leave when they move to the Railyards. He discussed how they will need to totally rework the space, including rewiring and tearing out the floor to better support the machines. The estimated move in date is set for Fall 27. He also emphasized that CNM Ingenuity is always willing to do contract training for local industry and their employees. If the business is in Albuquerque, the city will pay for said training.

Erin said that the changes in CCC are on hold now. The program will run as is, but those changes are still the end goal, as we want to be sure to meet industry needs. There will be a meeting later today with leadership to discuss program weak points and how to improve. They will solicit feedback later.

V. New Business Will discussed how STA has recognized since our last meeting. Erin Joseph is now the permanent Associate Dean over the Manufacturing cluster- this should offer some stability to the program. Will is now the program director and is working to properly staff the program, especially as two faculty have since left. Mark Jones is still working on developing curriculum remotely after stepping down from his position. Ian Patrick, who was formerly a part-time instructor, is now a full-time instructor. Max Barela, a current part-time instructor, is now teaching inspection and management classes. Telesfor Sanchez and William Hudson have joined the program as part-time faculty. Will praised his current team, saying that they will help strengthen the program!

He also said that the NSF grant was submitted and they will be working on another grant with the Department of Defense. This should help to continue the summer camp and hopefully grow as well, especially as students have been getting a lot out of it! Registration will be open soon for students aged 14-18. This will be in partnership with Explora and will last for 2 weeks with a cost of \$20. Students will spend one week with Carpentry and one week with Machine Tool to build skateboards. They will be folding in other members of the trades to get more exposure. He encouraged everyone to spread the word!

He also stated that CNM is now approved to be a Haas Certification Center. He is hoping to certify all students when they graduate from here on out.



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Margaret gave an update on Workforce Community Success and internship opportunities. She invited everyone to take a flyer on HireCNM and other WCS services, which were available up front. She also stated it is free for organizations to create a HireCNM account and post job positions. Those postings will be seen by students and career advisors. Margaret will be the point of contact for recruitment for anyone interested. She also stated there will be a showcase sometime in late March or early April and industry partners are encouraged to attend. She said to contact her and soon, as spots go fast! WCS will also be participating in Women in Trades come March. 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 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 emphasized the importance of CNM Ingenuity.

Cara talked about her role with WCS as the sector lead for Advanced Manufacturing. She said they are currently looking at the needs of employers and are using that to tweak our program accordingly. Her role is broader than advisories, though they have shared goals. She emphasized the importance of keeping up good connections between CNM and members of industry.

VI. Reports from Industry Members: Kelly said that Continental is doing good and there is plenty of work. They have two second-term students working there that are doing very well. He repeated the importance of getting students familiar with Mastercam and CNC as soon as possible, especially as industry has long since dropped manual machines. He suggested that Mastercam be utilized in first term courses as he has heard from students that the course runs too slow, hence why some students don't finish in favor of working. Will stated that they are trying to introduce Solidworks in the first term to better prepare students, but said that he is wanting to get students off of manual machines faster as well. He is also currently working on correcting the class pacing issue. Kelly also mentioned that the IMTS Trade Show is happening this year and recommended that faculty attend.

Kyle said that last year was a good year for Pro-Fab. There has been a lot of change within the past six months, but business is still moving well. This change included the loss of the inspector and addition of a new one. He said it is good to see this program grow, as it would be great for industry.

Danny asked if there is the opportunity or interest for Machine Tool over at Riotech as the school is getting popular and it would be great to see Machine Tool folded in. Will said that he and Erin have been discussing getting a mobile machine lab in order to have more of a presence at high schools. Sionna added that the agreement with Rio Rancho Public Schools was only for a few, limited programs, but there is certainly room for growth, especially since there are multiple partnerships between CNM, public schools, and the city of Albuquerque.

Lucas praised the Machine Tool team for doing a great job, saying that the program has come a long way. They have employed plenty of CNM graduates and have seen the results. MTI is doing great, but still need hands. He did ask what is emphasized in talks about employment- success or income, especially small business vs government jobs? Will said he doesn't discuss employment too much, but WCS can help facilitate industry partner presentations to highlight small businesses and the benefits of working with a small business. Margaret said that WCS also has employment advisors, who look at every single position with students to build awareness, they don't just focus on larger companies. Danny said it might help to highlight small businesses that are closer to Albuquerque, as places like LANL can be a huge commute. Ian said he is seeing students looking for postings for small businesses and has been able to share his experiences with them.

Kelly also asked about shop tours. Will said he wants to bring these back, but he has been playing catch-up currently. He said that anyone who is interested should contact him and Margaret to set something up. He also said that he has been



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training students on how to write cover letters using generic job postings from industry partners and welcomes more partners to provide posting like that. Erin also said it would be great to have a flyer of the different machine shops in town in order to promote more awareness. Maybe that information could also be displayed on the CNM website on the Machine Tool page.

Nicholas said that business is strong at Stainless Motors. There are exciting changes coming down the pipe, but he won't be able to share them until Fall. He is curious about SkillsUSA and asked if Machining is involved. Will said yes, Machine Tool is involved and he has already recommended people as judges. Those people should be getting calls soon. He is also unsure if we will be competing against other schools, more information forthcoming. Nicholas asked if 50% of graduates are working in the field, does our survey show what the other 50% are doing? Erin said that we need to get more data on this as she got this data from a department outside of STA so the information is limited. She would love to survey graduates before they leave the program to get a better perspective. Nicholas agreed this would be beneficial and also echoed the desire to do shop tours. Erin agreed this could be a great recruitment tool and Danny added that this could help correct preconceptions about machine shops, noting that people think shops are dingy and dirty. Most shops are very clean- maybe getting a look would convince people to consider machining.

Seth said that Jaguar has seen success with CNM students, mostly with those that went back to school instead of young students. He also observed that there are a lot of out-of-state established companies beginning to move into New Mexico. How can we get those companies involved in growing the talent pool in the state?

Melodee gave an update on Albuquerque Public Schools' efforts. Next week, there will be 8th grade career exploration events held at four different middle schools. Kelly has participated in these events before. There will be an event at Wilson Middle School March 19th and Harrison Middle School March 24th. Please come and promote your business! APS is also continuing their Albuquerque Academies at multiple different high schools, emphasizing trades and career readiness. She also said that PED has 3 cluster priorities for this year, with its number one priority being advanced manufacturing. Priority number two is the arts and priority number three is healthcare. APS is also looking at looping in elementary school kids to target them at younger ages!

Andrew said that M Tech is doing very well and they are staying busy. They currently have two former CNM students and one current applicant from CNM. It is good to see consistency in the program now, as that had been missing for a while. He also asked if the program will bring back paper tests. Will said that Telesfor will be rolling these out. Telesfor said that he has been highly thorough on teaching and testing and that testing is weighted heavily in a student's final grade. Will confirmed that Max is doing the same in his classes and that G-code is being included as well. Andrew also asked if CNM is planning on folding in Edgewood-Moriarty schools like what is being done with APS. Sionna said she can pass that idea onto our post-secondary outreach team, as that is decided by them.

John said that LANL is doing fine but did say that they are no longer getting CNM students and haven't for the past three years. He said this is showing him that they are going elsewhere, especially with LANL being so far from Albuquerque. He hopes they are staying local and said they are losing more people to Sandia National Labs now. He spoke about his experience in recruitment. He has been traveling as far as Montana for recruitment events, saying that LANL must recruit people who want to move and are able to move. He asked why our entire state only has one to two schools with machining programs, especially given our population. He also asked if an open-door policy with industry would be possible? Will said that given school rules, this needs to be tracked by WCS, but it is possible for industry members to set up something with Margaret to be able to drop in.

Stephanie displayed her interest in a tour in the future and said that things are well at Kairos.



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Michael Hudson said he is proud to be a part of this, especially as his son William is now employed here. Serbin is having issues with recruitment like everyone else. He also agreed that shop tours would be great to utilize as every shop is different.

VII. Adjournment: Will announced that we have a group of students competing in the Phillips Machining Competition where students design a ratcheting screwdriver. Hopefully this can help drum up some publicity. William added that he loves what APS and Kelly are doing and says it is good to get rid of the idea that machining is a dirty job. It should help people to know that machining can be clean and precise!

John asked how many faculty are in the program now? Will said we have two full-time instructors and three part-time instructors, but he is still wanting to add more people, especially someone with a production background. Lucas also suggested that maybe it would be just as important to take faculty on shop tours so that they can bring those experiences back to their students. Will said he has been doing a similar thing with leadership in order to justify purchases, but agreed that this could be valuable for faculty as well.

Adjourned at 3:41 pm