



MECH/ELTR - Advisory Committee Minutes, Fall 2025

Date: 9/19/25

Number of Attendees: 17

Called to order: 2:12 pm

Adjourned: 3:02 pm

Chairperson: Jorge Canales Verdial/Phelan Gavaldon

Recorder: Katherine Meagher

Location: TTC 115/Zoom

Members present from industry: Genneysburgh Izuquierdo- Intel, Tommy Long- Ski Santa Fe (online), Peter Lopez- NMGCO (online), Robert Neal- X-Cal (online), Scott Richardson- Thermo Fisher Scientific, Melodee Saiz- APS (online)

Members present from CNM: Eric Barros- Instructor (online), Marlene Brown- Instructor, Jorge Canales Verdial- Instructor/Chair (online), Paul Clark- Instructor, Jeffrey DeBillis- CNM Ingenuity, Phelan Gavaldon- Instructor/Chair, Sionna Grassbaugh- Interim Dean, Erin Joseph- Interim Associate Dean, Amardeep Kahlon- VP of Education and Learning, Katherine Meagher- ATA, Margaret Ortega- WCS (online)

Next scheduled meeting: TBD

I. Welcome/Introductions: Meeting started at 2:12 pm. Introductions were held. 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!

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.



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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! Enrollment in 1st term MECH classes has exceeded what we've seen in the past as the program has a full cohort of students in the new space!

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 discussed enrollment for Mechatronics and Electrical Trades. Enrollment is at 436 (please know this is a figure from across all classes so students may have been counted more than once/duplicated). Enrollment for Electrical Trades is 657 for fall (also duplicated). The fill rate for Mechatronics is 76%, which is up from 61% last fall. The fill rate for Electrical Trades is 90% from 81% last fall.
3. **Equipment:** Jorge reported on new equipment for Mechatronics. The new equipment in the new building is equivalent to that in the ATC lab. The course descriptions for some classes have been updated but the material has remained the same. The trainers in the new lab have off the shelf components for pneumatics and hydraulics- he is hoping to give students better look. Jorge also noticed that there will be more Siemens PLCs for better exposure.

IV. Old Business Erin touched on curriculum changes for Mechatronics, specifically a minor change that will help students from Electrical have an easier path into the Mechatronics program. This change will make it so that the Electrical PLC classes can be substituted for the Mechatronics PLC classes for an easier transition between programs.

V. New Business Erin discussed potential updates to the Mechatronics curriculum for Fall 2026. They are in the beginning stages so they are unsure exactly what these changes will include at the time being. However, they are considering a possible name change as "Mechatronics" doesn't quite promote understanding of what the program entails. Phelan clarified need for the PLC path and that credit hours will not change, especially as Intel and other partners have requested that they stay the same. He said that they might consider an Associate's Degree in the program. Jorge said that this is still possible with the current number of credits- it's just a matter of working through CCC and whether or not there is demand and/or interest. This would mean a higher level of robotics. Jeffrey asked if subsequent terms of Mechatronics would be offered at Main Campus instead of offering all post-1st term courses at ATC exclusively. Jorge said that we do not have the space at Main Campus at this time.



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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.

Erin stated that she would like industry feedback on outcomes as listed in the packet. They are working with WCS to gather that feedback so any input is welcome, especially as they look at potential future changes. Sionna reiterated Amardeep's points from earlier on focusing on industry needs- does our curriculum work for what our industry partners need? Does our scheduling make sense? She emphasized that alignment is a priority and this is why we hold meetings like this.

Phelan echoed these statements for Electrical- feedback from partners is welcome! Marlene also invited employers to talk with students and recruit students every semester, as she tries to keep up with industry needs.

VI. Reports from Industry Members: Scott stated that he hired 1 CNM student from Mechatronics after speaking to the class. They have 3 CNM applicants total and the student that they hired is now working in Los Alamos on contract. They are hiring throughout the US though hiring has slowed- he is hoping it will pick up next quarter and next year. He admitted that job postings from his company have been unclear and hard to find- he is willing to help interested people find these postings. He stated that it was very productive to speak with the class and would love to do it again. He also emphasized the importance of vacuum tech in Mechatronics, as this area is lacking in recruits but is critical to his job. He asked what areas our students tend to go into after graduation. Jorge and Phelan confirmed that our students mostly go into AC/DC training, relay control, and electrical trades.

Genneysburgh asked if students work with digital multimeters and schematics. Phelan said that proficiency is low at first but as they get through the program, they become proficient w these tools. Jorge confirmed that they do teach digital and analog along with clamp-on- this depends on the level of current being measured. Genneysburgh stated that Intel will be continuing to support the year-round student support program. Intel has interns at 20-30 hrs while they go to school, conversion rate of 90%- they get a good look at their options. She would love to see higher enrollment in these programs, especially as there is plenty of competition. Intel will be pausing the program for the next few weeks as they are figuring out their next steps. She is concerned that our students may be spread too thin amongst different programs and is worried that low enrollment could present an issue in the future. She also emphasized giving students a good, strong foundation in their classes. Paul mentioned that Intel employees have done well in the Mechatronics classes!

Tommy confirmed that things are going well at Ski Santa Fe.

Jeffrey 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 Jeffrey DeBellis (jdebells@cnm.edu) if you are interested in working with Ingenuity. He also mentioned that quantum tech trainings will be starting up soon and will be a 10-12 week program.



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VII. Adjournment: Sionna said if you want a tour of the new Trades and Technologies building, please reach out to us to schedule! Meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.