

MATT - Advisory Committee Minutes, Spring 2025

Date: 3/7/25

Number of Attendees: 25

Called to order: 1:31 pm

Adjourned: 3:40 pm

Chairperson: Jorge Canales Verdial

Recorder: Katherine Meagher

Location: TM 103/Zoom

Members present from industry: **Nicholas Blogett-** Stainless Motors, **Lucas Bulow-** Manufacturing Technologies Inc, **Michael Cumbo-** SE-OC (zoom), **Kelly Denison-** Continental Machine, **Stephanie Georgio-** Kairos Power (zoom), **Martin Herrera-** LANL, **Mike Hudson-** Serbin Machine (zoom), **John Lamar-** LANL, **Joseph Martinez-** Serbin Machining, **Isaac Milford-** Kairos Power (zoom), **Andrew Morford-** M Tech Machining, **Melodee Saiz-** APS (zoom), **Dan Schatzman-** Jaguar Precision Machine, **Lawrence Simons-** LANL, **Joyce Owings Cumbo-** SE-OC (zoom), **Danny White-** Moncktons Machine Tools

Members present from CNM: **Jorge Canales Verdial-** Instructor/Chair (zoom), **Noah Claspell-** Student, **June Friedman-** ATA, **Sionna Grassbaugh-** Associate Dean, **Will Hatch-** Instructor, **Mark Jones-** Instructor, **Katherine Meagher-** ATA, **Jessica Metz-** CNM Ingenuity, **Margaret Ortega-** WCS Outreach

Next scheduled meeting: TBD

I. Welcome/Introductions: Called to order @1:31 pm. Introductions were made.

II. Minutes: Minutes from 2024 approved by committee.

III. Reports:

College Updates: Jorge reported that 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!

Sionna expanded on Jorge's updates and expressed Dean Erin Johnson-Kruft's apology for having to miss the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. She addressed the current shift in politics and how the recent rash of executive orders could be affecting funding- there is now a website that tracks these changes. 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. Perkins funding should not be impacted and Machine Tool will be submitting equipment requests on the next round of Perkins.



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There have also been national cluster changes with the Perkins grant and many clusters are being revamped. Machine Tool is now in its own cluster, specifically in Advanced Manufacturing. The new STA building is still underway- moving is a little behind schedule but everything should be ready in the fall of 2025. She also touched on the upcoming Rio-Tech partnership with Rio Rancho high school coming Fall 2025 and how the Machine Tool program will be moving to the Advanced Technology Center once the Film program moves to the upcoming Railyards campus. Updates on the Machine Tool move are forthcoming- a date has not been set yet.

- 1. Enrollment and Graduation rates:** Sionna discussed demographics and enrollment information. Sionna reported that most students are coming from Uptown, Northeast Heights, and Unser/University area so it will be best to keep in mind where their students are coming from as we plan for future possible program moves. The majority of students are part-time and male. The average age for those getting their Associates is 41 while those in the certificate program are at the average age of 23. In fall, there were 3 graduates with an Associate's Degree and 1 graduate from the Certificate program. For this spring, there are 9 students set to graduate with a Certificate and 4 set to graduate with their Associate's. Sionna noted that according to the CEPR process, as has been discussed before, it is required that the program have at least 10 graduates each academic year so that is a goal that they are trying to make for this upcoming academic year. Numbers are remaining steady after 1 year but the goal is to boost enrollment. The team is already heavily advertising the Summer term in order to get students into the program.
- 2. Equipment:** Will reported on new equipment that was funded by Perkins, including a semiauto bandsaw, a bobbin machine tool TML 5CST, and a TL1. Perkins funding was also used to replace an air compressor. He also announced that classes will shut down for two days in late March for delivery of more new equipment including manual mills, lathes, and grinders. He is also in the process of slowly appraising current equipment and replacing it to keep up with industry updates as well as having sturdy equipment that will last longer. This will be in the current lab. Jorge thanked members for their letters of support that made this possible.

IV. Old Business Sionna thanked partners for joining Will's monthly MATT meetings as this helps guide the program even further.

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. Will mentioned MATT is working with WCS to create a job fair where the program can show off their equipment. Information will be forthcoming.

Dan asked if tours would help WCS with recruitment and says that many students he sees don't seem to know what we are doing or that there are dual-credit opportunities- what are we doing to get a foot in the door? Will said that he has



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been doing a lot of outreach events recently, about 9 so far, and has met one-on-one with multiple advisors. He has even scheduled events for high school tours, including today's College Day where high school students from Rio Grande came and saw the lab. He is also going to Explora to present a workshop to middle school students to work with these groups earlier. He is also hoping that having new equipment will attract more potential students to the program. Sienna also mentioned that we are in the process of hiring part-time faculty to allow Will more time to work with outreach and grow the program. Danny White said that he is wanting to support Will in these events and get more compact mills and lathes to bring to events.

Jessica relayed that she's actually spoken with parents in the community and they have told her that there is a disconnect between student learning and truly understanding what being a machinist is really like. Students are missing the broad picture of what a life in machining is- could be good to target that going forward. Lucas said it would be best to reach out to industry partners to help support these conversations. Andrew spoke on the importance of explaining the purpose of manufacturing, of making it clear to students what income is like for the career path, and what kind of opportunities are open to them.

Mark said that the Explora venture is promising for driving interest. We should also think of maybe utilizing makerspaces, what kind of programs can be made for the summer for basic skills in machining? Dan showed interest in the dual-credit program and hearing more as many of his best workers have come from dual-credit programs, with 80% of all of his workers coming from CNM.

Martin spoke on having a viable avenue after catching interest from job fairs- if they get interested, we need to have somewhere for them to go and try it out. Danny added on about how wood/metal shop went away from schools and how that's kept students from trying these potential avenues- maybe programs should start sooner? He expressed that manufacturing doesn't quite stand out even with it being important. But there is still a market for it.

Will discussed how he has pushed Skills New Mexico and Skills USA to include machining in the competition again. This should help get word of mouth going on the program. It is also a goal to do other events like Battlebots and other such competitions.

Mike asked about a social media presence and if that could be utilized. Will said that his team is looking to film a handful of TikToks within the next 3 weeks. All social media directives have to go through CNM- otherwise, he would do more.

Jorge discussed curriculum revisions coming in the fall, including a competency-based education (CBE) route. Will spoke more on these changes and said they found that the previous curriculum did not align with what partners were needing from students (NIMS). Will is taking the measures to be able to offer a HAAS Certification as well as use curriculum from Hexagon CMM. The CBE curriculum focuses on micro credentials and competency-based education, where students can take courses at their own pace. Students can only pass with an A or B letter grade and they can only complete assignments and take tests up to 3 times in order to demonstrate their competency. They would have to register differently and talks are in progress for how this will be dealt with, will stay as a separate program for time being. Will said that instructors will have open lab times and pre-recorded class sessions. There will also be night classes opening in order to make instructors more accessible. The faculty will create their own Open Educational Resources (OER), or textbook, for the program. Instructors will also be able to make real-time changes to this text to correct issues right away, which they could not do with outside publishers. CNC content will still remain the same, with students learning primarily on manual machines in the first term and then switching to CNC. In fall 2025, catalog changes will be proposed to the Associates degree that will make it four terms instead of five, including summer term.

In regards to curriculum changes, Mark also spoke on the importance of working with manual machining to better impart skills onto students and let them understand the machining process before graduating to the CNC machine. Andrew echoed this and said that manual machines also help teach safety guidelines and fundamentals that students



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need. Kelly suggested an operator segment for the program's first term to teach the very basic skills with high instructor guidance, especially as he tends to hire a lot of first-term students. Lawrence said that his program at LANL has tried this but students were more awestruck by the machinery than actually gaining fundamental knowledge- it is imperative that students get that manual experience in order to join the workforce. Sionna reminded everyone that these changes haven't been confirmed and will be submitted by October. Changes will be vetted through the advisory team.

Will also discussed changes to the Advanced Machining class. Mark is writing new curriculum to focus on y-axis lathe as well as fourth, fifth, and multi axis work. This will only be basic knowledge as partners have shown hesitation on this before. It was also made clear that all four terms of the class will be offered every term, which means fewer wait times for students.

VI. Reports from Industry Members: Melodee mentioned that APS is holding a Trades Fair on Tuesday, March 25th with over 100 vendors, including CNM in order to reach high schoolers. APS has a joint partnership with United Way and there will be opportunity at Wilson Middle School. In May at Van Buren and Hayes middle schools, there will be a panel on trades- she encourages industry partners to come. She spoke on all of the trades programs at APS schools at the moment, such as the Pipefitter's Union working with West Mesa High students and the Auto programs at Sandia- she asked where could Machine Tool possibly fit with those other programs? Could there be an opportunity for a cluster? Danny stated that Machine Tool could fold into any of these programs as machinists craft the parts that many of these industries use, highlighting Auto as a specific instance. Sionna asked for Melodee to get any information to Katherine to pass on or Will and Sionna can meet to set something up.

Mike said that the competency-based learning approach will mean more than a NIM certificate. He would like to see students know more how to change an insert as many of his employees don't seem to get that experience from school.

Noah spoke on his experience as a student in the program and how he didn't have a focus when he first came to the program. He said that manual machining was the key experience that got him into sticking with the program and pursuing a career in the industry, arguing why this is a good component to have in the class.

Andrew said that M Tech is doing well. They've only received 2 CNM graduates so far, as M Tech is based in Edgewood and therefore is somewhat low traffic. There is still a need and desire for manual machines in the industry, mostly due to safety. He also spoke on how vital it was for his experience in industry. He doesn't have as much experience with NIMs and therefore couldn't argue for or against it.

Kelly reported that Continental is doing well. They have employed 1 current student and multiple graduates. In fact, one of the newly hired part-time instructors for the program is an employee of his. He does not care for NIMs.

John said that there is a LANL posting for apprenticeships for up to 10 people and it is open until May 31st. They will be here next week to speak with students. He highlighted the importance a manual machines and stated that he is in favor of NIMs as their program is aligned for that curriculum. He believes that it is vital for students to get a head-start in the industry. Will stated that when LANL comes in, students will have resumes and cover letters for them. Kelly objected to this as all other industry partners should be getting these opportunities with potential future employees as well. Will offered that all partners provide postings so that students can practice cover letters. Lawrence echoed John's points but said that NIMs is a little outdated in some areas but it still has its benefits.

Dan stated that the number 1 priority should be increasing number of students as trades are doing very well right now. Will also pointed out issue of high experienced workers being offered pennies for jobs, especially with things being as competitive as they are right now. June also mentioned that students being encouraged to graduate before taking machining jobs will reflect better on the program, therefore enabling the program to provide better resources and encourage growth. Funding is largely decided based on graduation rates so it has hurt the program to have students



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pass up graduating in favor of a job opportunity. Dan also praised the program for coming a long way and said it could become a top program. He values certifications as a way to see if people have put the time in but doesn't value any one certificate over the other. He advised that the program keeps following new technology so that the program is leading in technology and gives industry workers that can suggest new, better ways of doing the job.

Lucas agreed that manual is necessary to learn but his shop doesn't use manual machines due to demand. Business is good and they are growing 10-20% each year. He reported that they attract a lot of younger workers, especially those that are willing to learn. He does not know enough about NIMs to weigh in, but will look into it. He also emphasized importance of students knowing their options and considering all of the different places they can go.

Nick said that manual machining is important as they teach the fundamentals, but Stainless mostly runs CNCs. He is open to donate machines and has donated before. No perspective on NIMs. He reported that he is less worried about whether or not someone has a certificate than about what someone can actually do. He also stated that ownership of Stainless has recently changed and business has also changed for the better, including having a much lower turn-over rate. He also expressed that he would love to be involved with Skills USA.

Danny spoke on the importance of connecting with students in middle and high school, especially in pushing the idea of trades being just as important as getting a four-year degree. He does not care for certification for HOSS or NIMs.

Jessica discussed how Ingenuity manages trainings with partners in conjunction with instructors. They can also run open enrollment courses as alternative as trainings have to be paid for by partners.

Joseph reported new owner and management. They are looking for a few positions currently. He said that it would be good to promote the program more through word of mouth and get students involved. He has no strong opinion on NIMs as he has very little experience with it.

Martin reported that LANL is trying to get machinists through their program as soon as possible and through NIMs, as they utilize it. This will put CNM students at a disadvantage when they come to LANL.

Stephanie reported that Kairos is well and currently hiring. She appreciates value in fundamental knowledge of manual but Kairos mostly uses CNC. She is not as knowledgeable about NIMs but will have Isaac reach out, as he is more experienced.

VII. Adjournment: More communication will come forth about curriculum. Adjourned at 3:40