



DETC/TRDR Advisory Committee Minutes, Spring 2017

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Number of Attendees: 10

Called to order: 6:15 pm

Adjourned: 7:50 pm

Chairperson: Vardis Gaus

Recorder: Jennifer Woods

Members present from industry: **David Beach**, Wilbanks Trucking; **Keith Hartnett**, Admiral Beverage; **Mike Schreiber**, Inland Kenworth

Members present from CNM: Amy Ballard, John Bronisz, Vardis Gaus, Karen Grandinetti, Diana Lucero, John Morningstar, Jennifer Woods

Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

I. Welcome/Introductions: Vardis opened the meeting and introductions were made all around.

II. Minutes: Minutes from fall 2016 approved as is.

III. Reports: Vardis gave a report on how our students are doing, graduation stats and testing results. Her notes are an addendum to these minutes. Note: Custom Health is the entity that does the physicals and drug screening for our students. They also help us with our random drug testing program at a lower cost than any other company.

TRDR 2097 (independent study) is an additional skills class for those who feel they need more driving experience. This is 90 hours of lab work. It is a great class as a refresher for those who already have their license. CNM is the only program in NM that gives certification with the Professional Truck Drivers Institute (PTDI).

John M. reported that the refresher class has proven to be valuable even for people who took classes four years ago. This leads us to believe that we are doing a good service for current and past students.

IV. Old Business: Vardis talked about the PTDI reports which have not come in yet. She says no news is good news. She also mentioned the need for the diesel tech students to help us out by doing repairs on our trucks, and now we have a new Instructional Tech who can take charge of this. Clifford Williams has been a great help to both programs and has a very easy-going personality too.

Vardis discussed the new class for Owner/Operator that she wants to do. This summer we will offer a topics class in this. We just need students to enroll. Mike said that this is something that is growing in popularity. We would like this to be a certificate which would include CDL-A, accounting, entrepreneurship and introduction to diesel technology. It would be heavy on the business side. A document describing the new classes is attached to these minutes as another addendum.

V. New Business: John B. talked about exploring some property for new range space. He and other college officials went to the south part of town (at Keith's urging) to look at parcels of land that the college could buy for the TRDR program. This is still in the works, so we have nothing yet to report.

John B. also talked about our budget. Operational money has been cut, but we are doing fine on capital money.

Vardis asked the members if we could appoint an advisory committee chair to take over these meetings. This would help us better understand what the needs of the industry are, and in turn we can train our students to fit those needs. She passed out a short handbook to the members so they could get a heads up on what would be expected of them. Keith suggested that the next advisory meeting should be devoted to bringing more industry partners in to discuss needs, goals, interests. Developing a good agenda for future meetings is important.

We are also going to have a hard-of-hearing student go through the program this summer. He will have to have interpreters, and the disability resource center will be involved. If this student makes it through the program, he will be the first and only hard-of-hearing person to receive a CDL license in the state of NM.

Amy announced the Open House we are hosting next Wednesday. It will feature all the programs that are here at the Advanced Technology Center, and if any member would like to participate, please call **505-224-3711** or **cnm.edu/at**. Emails have already been sent out to advisory members.

VI. Future trends and concerns: Keith asked the faculty if they could talk about where the graduates were getting jobs. Job placement is evidently all over the map. Diana said that some students don't have to have their CDL, but it is a way of understanding the industry they are already working in. Also, the diesel tech students (mechanics) need to have their CDL too. Some people want a back-up career. John M. said that about 60% of our students plan to get a job in industry, but whether they stay in industry is not known. About 85% of graduates are placed in industry. Passing background checks will often be a barrier to a lot of our grads and when they learn in advance that there will be strict background checks, this will sometimes scare off potential students.

Keith has trouble finding workers who want to commit to the demands of the job, and quit after only one week. He finds that a lot of people don't want to work hard. Karen said that she has heard this over and over again at other advisory meetings. Keith said a lot of his new hires will be "driver helpers". This is often a way for potential new drivers to work their way into the industry. He also voiced his continued concern for supporting veterans returning to work, and anything CNM might be able to do to support them.

Amy mentioned the new certificate program we are starting for line workers, which will cross over several programs, such as the electrical trades department, CPR training and CDL.

CNM tries to make sure students know what they are getting into and what they can expect at a new job, and that there are many directions one can go once you have your CDL.

Mike mentioned that it is difficult to find good workers. Keith said there has been a de-emphasis on the trades because at the high school level, students are told that college is the only path for them. Trades programs are also being slashed from High school curriculums, although we are trying to turn this around. There is growing evidence that college is not a good path for a lot of HS graduates, so there is a push to steer students toward the trades.

David remarked that his needs for a truck driver are different from those of Keith's, because of the type of industries they are in. Students at all levels need to be made aware that there are many kinds of trucking careers, and this is one of the challenges educators face. Another challenge for higher education is to get young people to embrace doing a job that may be physically demanding, but may offer big payoffs, such as great salary and benefits.

VII. Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday, October 18, 6:00 pm

VIII. Advisory member feedback survey: The members present have already filled out the survey.

IX. Adjournment: 7:50 pm

Class A Graduation State Fall 16

46 graduated / passed

15 Did not pass class for 3rd party

1 retaking this week
2 failed on 3rd test w/ taking repeat classes

2 Repeating this term at least 1 passed 3rd party but not program

1 Scheduled twice w/ 1 no show & 1 cancellation

@ least 2 tested twice and decided to stop

either 4 either 3rd or test for not passing

D or F in any class of sequence is failing

Class B

Fall 16 ~~pass~~

1 did not test / physical reason

DL/WE

7 total

4 not passed

1 - attendance & class work

1 - did not get permit in time to pass take test and

refused to complete DO file

1 - Had CDL w/ Auto restriction decided not to do classwork and quit attending

1 - Quit attending after drop date

Spring 17

Class B - 2 students both passed

Class A - 15 students

14 testing, this week
1 taking additional skills training

2 have notified they failed 3rd party and taking additional skills

Rest unknown right now at least

26 to do initial testing possible 27 w/ 2 retests

Extra skills class has

2 for retesting 1 for addl work

1 refresher possibly 2 & possible other 10 tests

Truck Driving Program Adds Classes for Drivers Returning to the Profession and Aspiring Owner-Operators

April 11, 2017 -- CNM is adding two new truck driving classes offered through the School of Applied Technologies - one will help former truck drivers get the training they need to start driving for a living again and the other will help those with a Commercial Drivers License learn what it takes to be a successful owner-operator in the trucking industry.

The first new class is a Refresher Course designed to help professional truck drivers with either a Class A or Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL). A holder who may have been out of the industry for some time can take three weeks of pre-trip, backing and road time to get a 90-hour, two-lab credit hours skill refresher. Upon completion, a letter will be available to take to potential employers that indicates the driver completed the program of study and has refreshed their skills adequately. This is good for someone who is returning to industry.

In addition to the Class A holder, this class is also offered to CNM Truck Driving students who need to retest to earn their CDL Class A. This class is not part of the Professional Truck Driver Institute (PTDI) Certified Truck Driving Program.

The other new course is an Owner-Operator class. This class is designed to help inform a current Class A or B CDL holder, or any interested student, to learn what it takes to become an owner-operator in the trucking industry. Some topics include:

- How early should one get started to become an owner-operator?
- What are some considerations to be aware of financially?
- Recordkeeping
- Purchasing a truck
- Lease/Purchase operations
- Finding Freight
- Do I want a tractor only or tractor and trailer?
- Can I be successful with a Class B straight truck?

In addition to regular lecture/discussion classes, there will be guest speakers. This course is designed to inform and educate those who may want to become owner-operators and potentially own their own trucking company in the future.

Call 505-224-3711 or email technology@cnm.edu for more information.

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