

MJC Automotive Technology Advisory Meeting – April 10, 2012

Minutes

Members in attendance:

Gerry Wray, Modesto Junior College
John Peterson, Modesto Junior College
Deven Chew, Modesto Junior College
Leonard Corgiat, Modesto Engine Renu/MJC
Robert Pereira, Bobby's Smog
Gordon Lucas, Dan's Auto repair
Mirl Morse, BAR

Apologies:

John Haley, American Chevrolet
Aaron Walker, Walker's Automotive

▪ **Introductions**

G Wray called the meeting to order in classroom Auto 127 at 7.00pm and introductions were made.

▪ **Review and vote on the importance and continuance of local secondary ROP Automotive Programs**

Due to the meeting being scheduled during school spring break school personnel were not in attendance. Cindy Young (SCOE), In collaboration with MJC staff and management, proposed a regional meeting be held in October 2012. She stated that HS auto programs would not require a vote until then. All members in attendance agreed on the importance of HS auto programs and Deven Chew stated that he had been tasked with visiting local high schools in the coming weeks to promote CTE programs and strengthen links between the HS's and the college. He also said that he recently heard that all Modesto automotive teachers had received pink slips in March.

▪ **Current program provision**

G Wray distributed class schedules for summer and fall 2012 for the committee to review. There have not been any substantial changes to the schedule since last year. He highlighted the fact that Autec 368 automotive electricity 1 would have stacked lecture for two sections in fall 2012 in order to save some money on the college budget. He distributed a document of program changes, suggested at a previous meeting, which are going through the curriculum process. The addition of an automotive management course and an alternative

fuels course has allowed the program to offer more options for students. The previous AS degree and two certificates are being updated to a more relevant AS degree and four certificates with fewer units in each. All members approved the changes and felt that all area skills were still being covered. Machine tool technology has been removed from the program and Eltec 208 will be offered as an elective instead of a required course.

▪ **Program Development and Maintenance**

Lively discussion ensued on the employment outlook with general comments that employment was slightly up since last year. Gordon Lucas stated that they were getting somewhat better applicants for jobs. Mirl Morse highlighted the need for much better trained smog technicians and said that it was difficult to fill smog positions with capable people. He also updated members on the proposed changes to BAR clean air and update classes. He indicated that the smog check process will change a lot in future years with newer vehicles potentially able to self check. Bobby Pereira said that he has already shifted his emphasis from smog check back to maintenance and repair. G Wray handed out an occupational report document from an employment research website which forecast an increasing trend in employment in automotive technician jobs in the central valley region in the next four years. Members agreed with the forecast as customers are repairing their older vehicles rather than purchasing newer ones in the current economic climate.

John Peterson provided information on the electric vehicle conversion completed this semester with a group of students. Deven Chew gave an update on the current grant for alternative fuels and provided details of the classes that are being offered under this grant.

Committee member commended the effort. G Wray said that it was hoped MJC could expand in the areas of automotive management and alternative fuels. He also updated members on the seven newer vehicles that have been purchased with CTE funds at auction to replace some of the older automotive department fleet vehicles. Also the software updated for the Snap-on scanners and the purchase of a new Snap-on Verus funded by the grant for hosting a Tunein/tuneup event in October 2011. Everyone agreed with the need to update equipment and facilities in order to keep pace with the advances in technologies in the automotive industry.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.