

Ventura College Automotive Technology

**Advisory Meeting Notes
April 16, 2015 12-2pm
Octavio's Italian Restaurant
Camarillo, CA**

Attended by:

Ventura College:	Kathy Schrader, CTE Dean Andy Cawelti, T-TEN Coordinator Eric Irwin, Automotive Instructor Chad Stangleand, PT Automotive Instructor TMS Diagnostic Support Team Chuck Rockwood, Automotive Instructor, retired Norbert Tan, VC Foundation Anne King, VC Foundation
DCH Toyota of Oxnard:	Chris Case, Parts and Service Manager Lars Bumann, Parts and Service Manger
DCH Lexus of Oxnard:	Judy Williams, Service Manager Russell Gardner, Shop Foreman Craig Vogel, Shop Foreman
Toyota Thousand Oaks:	Frank Gardea, Service Manager Dustin Williams, Shop Foreman
Ventura Toyota:	Jon Sebien, Shop Foreman Rob van Nieuwburg, Dealership Training Coordinator VC Foundation Board Member
Toyota Motor Sales USA,	Jon Marz, Field Technical Specialist
Toyota T-TEN:	Scott Sandford, T-Ten Area Manager

Andy greeted the group. After introductions, the discussion focused on how Ventura College Automotive has developed courses and curriculum to match NATEF (National Automotive Technicians Educational Foundation) and Toyota T-TEN standards. This curriculum updating process has taken two years. Andy was pleased to introduce Chad Stangleand as the newest full-time automotive staff member. He is scheduled to begin in August, 2015. Andy shared that master level technicians were retiring faster than replacements were being supplied. He shared that Ventura College wanted to help meet the needs of dealerships in this area. Dean Kathy Schrader shared that Ventura College has made a real commitment to keeping the Toyota T-TEN program.

Scott Sandford shared updated information from Toyota T-TEN. He said that the college must adopt the 8 week on followed by 8 week off schedule required of other T-TEN programs. He shared that at one time, Toyota had supported 85 automotive programs. Now, Toyota only supports 35 programs. He was pleased that Ventura College management has made a real effort to upgrade the automotive program. However, he did feel there was a good amount of work ahead.

The 8 weeks at college followed by 8 weeks of work sparked considerable discussion. Rob van Nieuwberg said the current Monday, Wednesday, and Friday schedule for freshman students followed by Tuesday and Thursday for sophomore students was working quite well. He said no reason to change a successful plan. Scott said the plan was working quite well and was used to recruit high school students. Rob said the 8/8 plan did not work well for veterans and students who are 20-24, since they are required to go 8 weeks with no income. Eric said that many of Ventura College Automotive students had been out of high school for a couple years and would need income. Rob noted recent high school students need family support for the 8/8 plan to work.

Chris Case was quite upset and told Scott that a student who worked more than 30 hours per week would become a full-time employee in California. He stated that the increase cost to the dealer would be about 40%. Chris asked what the other California T-TEN colleges had found when talking with their dealers. Scott said that Cypress and Miramar had recently agreed to the 8/8 plan.

Frank Gardea did not like the 8/8 plan and said it would be like having new employees every 8 weeks. Scott said the plan was working in the mid-west and east coast with success. It was noted that California presents special challenges that are not an issue in other states or areas of the country. Scott agreed. He stated that there were no T-TEN schools in Northern California. That leaves only four schools in California, one of the largest markets in the United States. The overwhelming dealer input was that the 8/8 program was not wanted at Ventura College.

Scott said the Ventura College 3 day for freshmen and 2 day for sophomore plan was too hard on students. It was noted that the six people in the room had done the VC program successfully (Eric Irwin, Chad Stangeland, Chris Case, Dustin Williams, Russell Gardner and Jon Marz).

Anne and Norbert made a presentation representing the Ventura College Foundation and how the automotive program could be better underwritten for even more success in the future.

Scott will report back to T-TEN. He said the current Ventura College plan should be okay, since there was such strong dealership support and with his new with the understanding about California labor laws.