

Attendees: Andy Cawelti, Ventura College
Chuck Rockwood, Ventura College
Richard Williams, Oxnard College
Jeff Hiben, Oxnard College
Robert Balderrama, Ventura College
Randy Johnson, Johnson's Automotive, Port Hueneme
Joe Martin, Bergin's Automotive
Eugene Hwang, ADR Service Technician, VC Student
McLain Neville, VC Student
Dan Noftsier, Automotive Technician
Kevin Corse, Buena Auto Care, Ventura High School
Kyle Willis, Buena Auto Care, VC Graduate
Shady Shenouda, Auto Center Owner, OC Graduate
Gerald Shafer, VC Student
David Hernandez, DMC Transmissions, OC Graduate
Donnie Caccamise, DMC Transmissions
Francisco Silva, Toyota of Thousand Oaks, VC Graduate
Frank Montes, Silver Star Mercedes, OC Graduate
Gustavo Ponce, Toyota of Thousand Oaks, VC Graduate
Josh Addison, Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc, LA Region, VC Graduate

6:50 pm Andy Cawelti started the meeting by introducing the educators in the room.
Minutes from prior meeting were approved.
Update on NATEF certification – both programs passed their review and received a 5 year renewal (best possible recertification).

Andy Cawelti passed out a handout to each attendee in the room. He asked them to give feedback.
Richard Williams ask the members to include feedback for Oxnard College as well.

Andy Cawelti discussed equipment needs at Ventura College. He said the main need is the updating of the computer operating systems in the student labs. He mentioned that the computers are too slow for the programs being used in the automotive program, which is very frustrating for the students. Andy spoke about the revised smog license requirements and classes of smog test/repair technicians. He shared about the new smog test equipment that the BAR (Bureau of Automotive Repair) will be requiring in the next few months. Josh Addison stated that he has been contacted by Toyota technicians about the scheduling of the BAR required smog Update Course. He said that running the classes on Fridays makes it difficult for dealership technicians to attend. Friday is one of the busiest days for techs. He asked if the classes could be on Saturdays, as they were previously. Andy explained that the college is closed on Saturdays and that the college does not offer any Saturday classes.

Richard Williams stated that Oxnard College has started to upgrade their computers to Windows 7. Richard Williams told the members, Oxnard College was going to submit a request to upgrade the alignment equipment.

Richard Williams spoke about the success of CTE (Career and Technical Education) at Oxnard College. He explained how the college looks at completed certificates and degrees as a measure of student success. A member of the committee commented that he thinks success is measured by the student gaining employment. This demonstrates the value of the skills they obtained at the automotive program(s).

Richard Williams informed the members that as the model stands, the staff at Oxnard College cannot use common knowledge information to track student employment. The student needs to report back to the college.

Jeff Hiben stated that it was very hard to get all the students to report back to Oxnard College when they found employment or received a promotion in the industry.

Randy Johnson asked where the education management representatives were. It was noted that there was no one in attendance representing management from Oxnard or Ventura Colleges. Andy and Richard stated that they intended to attend but other obligations prevented their attendance.

Randy Johnson asked if employers could write letters of support for recognition of employment as a measure of student success.

Joe Martin (Bergin's Automotive) stated when he gets graduates from UTI (a private automotive training facility), the staff from UTI calls him quite a bit for employment tracking and suggested we do the same. He also said he likes the quality of student he receives from the community colleges over the UTI students.

Chuck Rockwood spoke about UTI's funding. They are a private educational institution and each student pays upwards of \$38,000 to attend. UTI also helps students obtain grants and loans to pay their fees. They have specialized staff that are able to track students.

Randy Johnson recommended that the community colleges have someone help write grants for the automotive technology programs. He also noted the need to keep automotive computer testing equipment up-to-date. He spoke of the need for more course offerings (evenings and weekends).

Eugene Hwang, McLain Neville, Dan Noftsier, Kevin Corse, Kyle Willis, Shady Shenouda, Gerald Shafer, Randy Johnson, David Hernandez, Donnie Caccamise, Francisco Silva, Frank Montes, Gustavo Ponce noted the high demand for smog licensed technicians and hoped the program could be expanded.

Frank Montes noted that both programs are excellent with domestic and Asian vehicles; but, European vehicles need to be added to the educational mix.

Kevin Corse, Shady Shenouda, and Francisco Silva noted the smog equipment used for training at Ventura College automotive is too old and needs to be replaced.

Donny Caccamise (DMC Transmissions) praised the programs for the great technicians he has hired from both the VC and OC automotive programs. He stated that the automotive programs need to be expanded; the need for qualified technicians is increasing with each passing year. He serves on the Board of Directors for ATRA (Automatic Transmission Rebuilders Association) and said one of the main concerns of their members was the shortage of qualified technicians. Eugene Hwang, McLain Neville, Dan Noftsier, Kevin Corse, and David Hernandez recommended the automotive programs expand the number of courses offered in support of Mr. Caccamise's comment.

Eugene Hwang, Donny Caccamise, and Gerald Shafer would like to see more training with the industry-standard PICO lab scopes.

Eugene Hwang, Gerald Shafer, McLain Neville and Kevin Corse noted the automotive computers available to students at VC automotive are slow; especially, when accessing factory websites and online automotive diagnostic service sites.

Kevin Corse, Kyle Willis, and Shady Shenouda noted the need for Smog License Update classes on Saturday, for working smog technicians.

Kevin Corse, and Kyle Willis would like to see both VC auto and OC auto get new alignment machines with the floor-level ramps.

Eugene Hwang, Gerald Shafer, McLain Neville and Shady Shenouda discussed the problem of OC automotive students coming to VC automotive and impacting class availability for VC automotive students. Andy shared concerns about OC students taking one or two classes at VC; and, OC being the college of record for certificates or degrees in automotive technology.

After touring the Ventura College Automotive facility the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.