***Regional Advisory Committee Minutes*** 

Industry Sector: Automotive

School Year: 2020-21

Meeting Date/Time: September 23, 2020, 3pm-5pm

Meeting Location: Zoom

Meeting Facilitator(s): Matt Wells/Lee Bennett

***Attendees***

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| Matt Wells, MDCP | Doug Seibert, Barstow HS | Brian Suggs, Sultana HS |
| Kendle Crowell, MDCP | Josh Dollar, Apple Valley HS | Steve Coultas, Victor Valley CC |
| Andy Page, MDCP | Frank Jimenez, Barstow USD | Jessica Swift, MDCP |
| Carrie O’Neal, MDCP | Lee Bennett, Victor Valley CC | Robert Carlos, Victor Valley HS |
| Salina Gregg, Victor Valley UHSD | Randy Lockie, Hesperia HS | Raj Punjabi, Unique Educational Solutions |
| McKenzie Tarango, Hesperia USD | Shaun Kitrell, Silver Valley HS | David Mendoza, Adelanto HS |
| Charlotte Allen, Victor Valley CC | James Lee, Barstow CC | Todd Scott, Victor Valley CC |
| Dustin Strandberg, Victor Valley Transit Authority (Industry) | Brad Williams, Apple Valley USD | John Boulanger, Oak Hills HS |
| Lorraine Collins, Victor Valley UHSD | Kevin Smilen, Victorville Motors (Industry |  |

***Minutes***

1. Greetings and Introductions

*The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m.*

1. Labor Market Information Snapshot

*Matt Wells and Andy Page shared local labor market reports related to the Transportation and Automotive field. All reports and infographics are available on MDCP’s website.*

* *Shared just a snapshot of jobs from our region (not based on entire industry)*
* *Data was pulled from Qrt 1 data (pre-COVID), so it will be interesting to see Qrt 3 report and how things have changed in the last few months.*
* *Average salaries and wages from MDCP’s region. In comparison, we are slightly lower than the state average, but slightly higher than SB County’s average.*
* *Data infographic indicates what the demand is by showing how many jobs are being added, retirements, transfers, etc. in the next 5 years.*
* *If there are local employers that should be added to the infographic or if any other changes need to be made to match current trends, please share with Andy.*
	+ *Lee Bennett commented that the living wage snapshots presented are some of the most accurate profiles that he has seen.*
	+ *Lee added that for the Auto field, almost all businesses are recruiting on a regular basis, so it doesn’t seem fair or accurate to only list a few on the document. It may be best for this industry sector to remove the local employers or add more specific information on the back that would be helpful to students, teachers, etc.*
* *Lee Bennett proposed the question of Associate of Science degree continuation and creation. The following degrees were unanimously supported to continue*
	+ *Associate in Science in Automotive Technology*

*The following degree was recommended for creation.*

 *Associate in Science Automotive Service Management and Advising*

1. Industry Trends Update
	1. *Industry snapshot - what are the current industry trends, including during COVID? What are the projections over the next couple of years? Discuss with industry partners the realities they are seeing. Are there specific skills deficits that we can address (aside from soft skills)? Are there new equipment shifts, software shifts, etc.?*
* *Kevin Smilen from VV Motors shared:*
	+ *They shut down and paired down staff at the beginning of the closure, but have progressively scaled back up over the last couple months.*
	+ *Inventory is much lower than it was prior to COVID.*
	+ *Customer service considerations have been made to meet current needs and safety concerns.*
	+ *Back on two service shifts for their service dept. Shifted to online practices that the industry was delaying, but those are trends that will likely stick.*
	+ *People seem to be maintaining their cars more to ensure longer they stay on the roadways.*
* *Dustin Strandberg from Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA) shared:*
	+ *VVC is on the right track with their alternative fuels programs. VVTA looking to go 80% hydrogen cell, 10% battery electric, and 10% standard very soon. Work on auto brakes and suspension continues, but alternative fuels are VVTA's biggest push.*
	+ *Changing their contractors for maintenance and operations so they are in need of some new mechanics. Contractors hire mechanics and VVTA oversees the contractor. Open to reviewing resumes from VVC students.*
	+ *Have gone back to normal service starting this week, but it has definitely affected the amount of riders at this time*
	+ *The COVID reality in the future will encourage more training when face to face can resume. It is hard to train mechanics when they can’t put their hands on the vehicles.*
	+ *Public wants to know that their buses are being sanitation so it is an added responsibility to the bus cleaners, but doesn’t affect the maintenance side much.*
	+ *For students looking at careers in transit and maintenance, there are a lot of options to get in the door: Parts dept, service advisors, different levels of Mechanics.*
		- *A Level Journeyman techs are the most knowledgeable and paid the highest.*
		- *C Level techs are entry level positions that also pay very well (approx $26-28/hr). Students who have gone through Auto programs at the HS or CC level will certainly be considered for those positions.*
* *Other industry discussion:*
	+ *New CA Executive Order has declared that by 2035, dealerships in the state will no longer be permitted to sell vehicles that are not electric. Manufacturers will be racing to meet those standards, which means more jobs.*
	+ *Raj Punjabi shared that what they do is to supply equipment and curriculum for automotive training and other CTE programs.*
	+ *Even through COVID, our region is still experiencing a hiring trend and as more businesses get back to their full capacity of staff, they will be actively recruiting.*
1. District Mini Presentations, *(4-5 min share-out by districts with industry programs)*

*MDCP District teachers already met to review curriculum, best practices, etc. and that information is shared with industry partners regularly. Districts were asked to share briefly about anything new their programs have adopted over the last year, including new practices that have taken place through virtual learning.*

* *In this distance learning environment, there is zero in person instruction at the high school level. No tools can be sent home, which is challenging for Auto students.*
* *McKenzie Tarango discussed the Clean Fuels grant. For districts that haven’t applied for the grant, she urged them to do so for the next round. It is one of the simplest grants to apply for and bring to life and the projects align perfectly with the courses at VVC and the need of industry.*
* *Josh Dollar shared about AVUSD’s new equipment purchases:*
	+ *Cutaway Prius that is very similar to what they have at VVC.*
	+ *Diagnostic equipment, multimeters and testing equipment to go with their hybrid vehicle.*
	+ *Training boards from A-Tech to teach circuit design, Diesel equipment, including a heavy duty diesel pickup and a fully functioning diesel engine*
	+ *Electronics for students to build circuits and test them.*
* *Sultana HS now has an alternative fuels and propulsion class, which is a standalone course. It is like Auto 1 integrated with Hybrid.*
* *James Lee shared for Barstow Community College (BCC):*
	+ *Hosting their annual advisory on Oct. 20th*
	+ *Offer Auto Tech and Diesel Technology programs for certificate and AA degree*
	+ *SWP allowed them to roll out a standalone Hybrid Course which will expand to more comprehensive for-credit courses.*
	+ *Purchased new technology, hybrid/electric vehicles, cutaways, diagnostic equipment related to those cert. courses.*
	+ *Currently offering Auto courses through a hybrid model. Theory completed online and lab components are completed in person.*
	+ *Competency model for students to work at their own pace.*
* *Lee Bennett and Steve Coultas shared for Victor Valley College (VVC):*
	+ *A revised Educational Master Plan is underway. Industry trends and growth needs have been taken into account and a critical area that was identified was heavy duty diesel, transit, and mechanics. Some goals that have been established for the next five years are to:*
		- *Develop a heavy duty diesel program;*
		- *Develop transit and mechanic programs that will provide more liveable wage career opportunities for students.*
	+ *VVC is promoting more non credit programs, including in Automotive. 2 non credit courses together equals a certificate option.*
	+ *VVC asked the committee in an A/S degree in Automotive Technology was still relevant. The secondary schools reported that it created a pathway from college to career an was still relevant and important.*
	+ *Biggest push is moving forward the Auto Dealership Technician pathway. First cohort will start in the Fall of 2021. The certificate is in the approval process right now.*
	+ *Development of new classes in advanced drivers assistance (ADAS) classes and purchasing of related equipment is underway. The Fall of 2021 is likely to be when those classes are introduced.*
	+ *Reiterated the importance of electronics training for HS and CC programs to make for smooth transition for students. Necessity for techs with programming and diagnostics skills. along with ASE certification will be rising rapidly. VVC was able to purchase take-home kits for students with electronic components. They will delve further into that curriculum when students return in person.*
	+ *Their goal is to be a regional training facility and hosting more training for high school instructors.*
	+ *The ASE recertification has been pushed back a year.*
	+ *Discussion took place regarding re-education of HS and CC counselors, which is vital because industry demands have changed and that is not always relayed to the students so they’re not aware of the opportunities.*
	+ *Carrie O’Neal and Jessica Swift from MDCP are working on a counselor PD series to start communicating career paths, the high tech skills required of our CTE students, etc. as we know this is a pain point for our districts and CTE programs.*
	+ *Counselor knowledge and encouragement is part of the key to CTE student success.*
	+ *Work continues to be done to develop better surveying methods to track students after graduation to help determine the success of our CTE programs. Are students transferring from HS CTE courses to post secondary cert/degree programs in that same field, and then do they ultimately find a career on that same path? Those are important questions that will help validate programs at both the HS and CC level.*

*Matt asked industry partners to validate the work being done at the HS level and if it is on par with what they need from their applicants.*

* *Dustin commented that electronics is a major component of the work taking place in his industry, so HS and CC instructors are right on track with providing what industry partners need as far as the skills students possess coming out of CTE programs.*
1. Certification Discussion & Report - *Including Precision Exams (data totals presented)*

*MDCP has a region wide license for Precision Exams (PE) , which offers certification and assessment in most industry sectors.*

*At the end of last school year, with students being sent home due to COVID, Precision Exams and certificates could not be issued to students. The company has now come up with a remote proctoring solution that will be available this year for student assessment. Instructors can sign up for a time for their students to take the exam and PE will assign a proctor. Pre tests and post tests will be available just like before. MDCP staff will share the how-to guide for remote proctoring with teachers.*

*Matt asked for industry feedback on certification and if PE certs are on track.*

* *Dustin from VVTA commented that the PE certs would hold weight in the transit industry because they indicate some prior training and understanding of the fundamentals you would need as a base level tech.*
* *For industry, the most desirable cert is ASE. VVTA offers substantial bonus for employees with ASE certification.*
* *They look at certifications from all education aspects, so they all hold weight.*

*What other certs should be offered when in person instruction resumes?*

* *Precision Exams for intro classes.*
* *Student ASE for more advanced classes.*
	+ *Do questions compare to the actual ASE test and accurately prepare students to be at that level? Lee confirmed that they are at the same level and include the same questions. The only thing that makes it a student cert is that there is not 2 years of experience backing it.*
	+ *Lee shared the pass rate that he’s experienced at a college level is around 70%. HS teachers are teaching at a very high level if their students are able to pass that test.*
	+ *Discussion took place about the ease of maintaining ASE certification as an instructor.*
* *SP2, which includes safety portion and resume building skills. There are about 30 certs offered through that program.*
	+ *Lee will look into adding all HS sites to VVC’s SP2 license to ensure all students have access. This would open up a huge range of certs to them.*
	+ *Students could earn over 100 certificates over their course of HS and CC.*
* *Java, python, C++ (programming, electronics)*
* *Mitchell (service writing)*
* *Automotive Video Incorporated (over 360 instructional online training courses and post tests and post exams for the courses)*
1. Nontrad/Special Populations *- Call to action about reps from underrepresented groups who can mentor/guest speak/be on a poster, etc.*
* *Females in this industry only represent about 3.5%. What ways can we better promote females to enter the sector and stay in it for the long haul?*
* *Steve Coultas is concerned that over 50% of our region’s population is female, but only 3% are working in the Auto field. There are not as many physical demands as there once was, so that is no longer a valid reason for them not to work in the field. They are trying to encourage female participation in VVC’s program and he sees a steady increase in his female students, who tend to be more successful being placed in the workforce.*
* *Randy Lockie shared about the Girl Power program that works to recruit female students to get involved in robotics and engineering. He has seen a dramatic increase in female participation in robotics, but not in the Auto program.*
* *The earlier we can engage non traditional student populations (elem & middle school), the more likely they are to move forward into high school and a career.*
1. Student extracurricular report

*VVC is open to virtual competition options in lieu of an in person option. Matt and Lee will work on details and report out to the team at a later date.*

1. WBL Opportunities Discussion

*Visit Educators tab on MDCP’s website to learn about upcoming opportunities for students and to request different ways for industry to engage with students.*

*MDCP is currently offering a Mechatronics web series, which ties in to the Auto work being done in CTE programs region-wide.*

*Virtual tours can always be of value. Dustin offered to do that for VVTA in the future.*

1. Articulation w/ VVC

*Articulation discussion took place:*

* *The point was made to make sure students aren’t submitted a second time if they have already received credit in a different course (for example, if a student completed Auto I and received VVC credit, they cannot receive VVC credit after taking Auto II).*

***The following courses were renewed for articulation for the 2021-22 school year:***

***Apple Valley USD:***

*Auto I to AUTO 50*

*Auto II AUTO 50*

*Auto III AUTO 50*

***Hesperia USD:***

*ASE Auto I to AUTO 50*

*ASE Auto II to AUTO 50*

*Hybrid, Electric Vehicle and Alternative Propulsion to AUTO 89.3*

***Lucerne Valley USD:***

*Auto I to AUTO 50*

***Victor Valley Union High School District:***

*Auto I to AUTO 50*

*Auto II to AUTO 50*