

Pierce college AST advisory meeting minutes December 15, 2022

6 30 PM: The meeting was called to order @ 6 pm followed by self-introductions.

Mike Van Dyke welcomed the attendees who were impressed with the new facility. Dinner was served and while dining the guests viewed a local news presentation highlighting Pierce College and the new Automotive technology facility.

7:00 Class Schedules and enrollment trends:

Mike Van Dyke opened the discussions about class schedules and enrollment trends. Instructor Tom Rosdahl indicated that his spring class is already full and noted that it is early to already have a full roster. CTE Dean Mon Khat indicated that many of the classes under his direction are nearing pre covid enrollment levels.

7:30 Recent accomplishments:

Mike Van Dyke shared with the group recent acquisitions for the automotive technology discipline that included: Drew Technologies MG PRO MFC2, Toyota Techinfo Professional diagnostic subscription, A-Tech plus trainer, and tooling inventory for the expanded automotive technology building.

It was noted that Tom Rosdahl donated a LS engine pressure priming tank.

Tom Fortune indicated that it was time for the program to begin the self- evaluation process to maintain NATEF accreditation.

Mike Williams shared with the guests the college's utilization of Network Kinexion, an outside contractor who helps with student job placements. Mike went on to say that Network Kinexion has been reaching out to local automotive employers helping them connect with Pierce Automotive Technology students. In addition to job placement, Network Kinexion holds workshops for students helping with resume building and interview skills.

Mike Williams spoke to the group about the ongoing outreach with area high schools. Canoga, Canyon, El Camino just to name a few. A discussion ensued about how most high schools have no automotive or even shop classes and their effect and costs to the college. Tom Fortune shared with the group how a good high school auto shop foundation results in higher completion rates in the Pierce Auto program as compared to walk in students. Mike Williams noted that the Pierce Auto Program has had a long-standing relationship with the Van Nuys auto program resulting in busloads of students signing up to be Pierce Students several last Monday 12/12 signing up during a tour of the Pierce Facility. Granada Hills Charter High School, San Fernando and Sylmar have had similar relationships as well.

Mike Van Dyke shared with the group the programs recent award of a California Energy Commission grant that will be funding the college for new EV training as well as funding for new EV vehicles and equipment.

7:45 Endeavors/ Tooling / Equipment- Information & Updates

NC-3: Nick Porretta from Snap On industrial shared with the group efforts to bring NC3 training to Pierce College. The NC3 program brings specialized equipment and tools to the program and incorporates training specific to the equipment. Trained Pierce College instructors deliver the training to students and area industry professionals wanting to upgrade their skills. Students and industry professionals who complete NC3 training receive certification of this training helping improve their chances for employment and helping already employed professionals progress to higher level positions.

Ford ACE Training: Michelle Palmer from Ford Motor Company was on hand to update the attendees on Ford factory training available to Pierce Students. Michelle shared with the group how Ford updates training from time to time to integrate new technology and car models. David Chith mentioned some difficulty students have been having transferring their previously completed ACE training from High Schools to the Pierce Program. Michelle said the program is complex as often students have school e-mails that change once the student graduates. She recommends that students use their personal e mail as a contact for Ford ACER training identification purposes.

MOPAR FCA Training: Kelly Faley spoke to the current Chrysler FCA training program at Pierce. Mopar like Ford has some area High School auto programs delivering Mopar CAP training. This training transfers to the students continuing work at Pierce.

Joe Agruso inquired about Mopar Factory training availability for instructors. Kelly Faley indicated that MOPAR training was indeed available. Mike Van Dyke indicated the he has attended such training.

Tom Fortune brought up the growing challenges factory programs bring to the program. These programs are very good for students and help with employment opportunities however, as the Pierce Auto Program grows and expands the opportunity for additional manufacturer training is presenting itself. **The nature of our training involves continual updates especially with the electric car explosion. Manufacturers continually update/upgrade their training making it hard for instructors to keep abreast of the course changes.** This is going on already with just two training programs and the fear is that bringing on additional manufacturers training without additional administrative help would weaken the program and tarnish the reputation of the Pierce Auto Program.

Joe Agruso made a motion seconded by Mike Van Dyke that the school designate or hire an administrative secretary for the automotive discipline. While all in attendance agreed, Dean Khat indicated that funding for salaries may be in question.

8:00 Alternative Fuel Expansion Building/ Replacement Building(s)

Mike Van Dyke brought the attendees up to speed on the new facility. While the building appears complete there remains some unfinished business most notably no internet connection. Dean Khat informed the group that class scheduling for the new building is not likely until at least Fall 23. Currently the Auto Staff has no keys or regular access to the building and are thus unable to prepare or organize the facility for classes.

Mike Van Dyke shared with group the school's plans to replace the current auto facility built in 1967. The new replacement building is to be built north of the new expanded building. The replacement building will house not only automotive but welding, machine, and engineering disciplines.

Dean Khat shared with the group how the funds for the replacement building are different than the bond money for the expansion building and suggested the replacement building will progress at a much faster rate than the expansion building.

8:15 Future Plans:

Mike Van Dyke shared with the group that five new certificates were currently in process.

New certificates included, Hybrid/Electric vehicles, as well as advanced levels of current certificates.

Dean Khat shared with the attendees work progressing on a new Auto promotional video.

Mike Van Dyke reminded the group that Super Car Sunday, a long time running area car show/meet has been held every Sunday at Pierce College parking lot 7 for several years. Dustin Troyan runs the meet sponsored by the Keyes auto group and Woodland Hills Porsche. Dustin allows the Pierce Automotive Program to set up a display booth. The booth raises awareness of the Auto and other Pierce CTE programs on campus to the car community.

Tom Fortune suggested to Dean Khat that the school look into the possibility of utilizing the old auto building as a collision program. Fortune noted that there are many inquires about a collision program at Pierce and indicated there are not any such programs near the College. The idea was that the old building would facilitate a relatively inexpensive way to set up the program to evaluate viability.

Dean Khat suggested that the state would require demolition of the old building as the funds were allocated for a replacement building not an expansion of the college. Joe Agruso and other attendees suggested reaching out to area assembly members for their help in convincing the state to make an exception as the need for collision specialists is great and well paying.

Dean Khat shared with the group current availability of grants for bus tickets, books, tuition and other assistance students depending on financial need.

Dean Khat also mentioned that the college may be looking to expand into some 4 year programs. Tom Rosdahl suggested that not all auto students may not be interested in a 4 year program but he and some of the attendees did seem to think the 4 year program would be beneficial to some auto students and industry professionals looking to move into management positions in the industry.

Tom Fortune and Mike Van Dyke shared with the group the various grant funding the program has received from Bob Smith and the Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealers Association.

8:30 Industry needs: NOTE:

This area was a very lengthy discussion and forced an extension in the meeting time.

Joe Agruso expressed the need to integrate more High School course work into the Pierce Program. Joe suggested that many high level high school auto students are discouraged upon arrival to the Pierce Program only to find a repeat of much of the same material previously covered in a good high school

program. Joe asked that the college find ways to articulate more than the 3 units currently awarded for AST 25.

Internships: Dean Khat shared information that in the works is a program that will allow about 400 hours of full paid internships. Basically, the program will allow students to intern fully paid by the school. The idea was well received.

Tom Fortune shared with the group the “pathways” concept often discussed at school meetings. The idea is to help show the student a path to higher paying jobs. Fortune suggested that too often the idea stops for the student upon completion of school. He suggested that employers look at their business in a way that creates pathways for their employees after they finish school. Fortune suggested that workers and employers seem to forget about the pathway concept and that leads to stagnation and workers leaving the industry.

Brian Fortune said his independent shop has had some success with Pierce Auto Students. He suggested the pathway concept is attractive to the students knowing that as the employer he will be helping them achieve their pathway goals. Brian suggested a 5 year to master tech goal using ASE testing seems to be attractive to entry level employees.

Jason Lefebvre mentioned the FBI no longer hires entry level but rather requires 3 year minimum experience.

Steven Guevara from Tesla acknowledged that Tesla has many Pierce Grads as employees. Steven suggested entry level techs need basic tool skills as well as basic electrical and high voltage training. Steven also suggested the program require hybrid and EV be required as part of the certificate or degree program. He went on to say that TESLA has lots of demand for computer and Can-Bus diagnostic skills.

Mike Martin from Galpin Auto Sports suggested there is a need for warranty management training. He indicated that knowledge of warranty requirements is beneficial in a busy dealership environment. He also suggested hands on training is very important.

Roy Cook from Dependable Dodge indicated electrical diagnostic, problem solving, and time management seems to be lacking in many entry level technicians.

Ed Lujan from Northridge Toyota suggested reliability, driving records, and personal lifestyle choices involving recreational drugs often keep an entry level auto student from being successful. Ed went on to say that ASE certifications such as A6 +A8 seems to help with entry level success.

Al Jiminez from Glendale Dodge indicated that entry level techs sometimes have issues with poor driving records.

Jerry Gordon and Craig Marshall from Glendale Dodge indicated that teaching foundations and life skills would be beneficial in a entry level tech.

Dirk Aubochan from LAPD motor garage stressed electrical diagnostic and critical thinking skills are needed.

9:20 Program Needs:

Mike VanDyke shared with the group the various funding needs and resources. Mike also asked the attendees to keep us in mind if they run across vehicles suitable for donation to the college auto program. Lemons, trade ins and Hybrid or EV components are in need for training use at the college.

Tom Fortune mentioned the need to purchase EV vehicles through the California Energy commission grant.

Mike Van Dyke reminded those in attendance the school is looking for OBDII vehicles newer than 2010 available for donation as well as wheel cylinders, master cylinders and brake calipers.

Mike also mentioned the school has needs for AAmco Brake lathe machines, High Voltage Lineman's gloves ,5.3 litre LS engines and 12 volt batteries.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45

Attendees:

Joe Agruso Van Nuys High School

Dirk Aubuchan LAPD Motor Garage

Jason Lefebvre FBI Garage

Kelly Fayley Mopar CAP

Jerry Gordon Glendale Dodge

Craig Marshall Glendale Dodge

Al Jimenez Glendale Dodge

Edward Lujan Northridge Toyota

Abel Saenz Granada Hills Charter High School

Roy Cook Dependable Dodge

Travis Chavez Ferrari Beverly Hills

Michelle Palmer Ford Motor Company

Mark Genaernalik Muholland Middle School

Mike Martin Galpin Auto Sports

Stevern Guevara TESLA

Neelam Rozano ATECH

Nick Porretta Snap On Industrial

Brian Fortune Tom's Transmission and Auto service

Mason Mellum San Fernando High School

Chad Agruso Galpin Ford

Pierce:

Mon Khat Dean

Mike Williams Outreach Coordinator

Instructors:

Mike Van Dyke

David Chith

Tom Rosdahl

Tom Fortune