

Industry Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Rio Hondo College – Architecture & Civil Engineering Design Department

Date: April 18th, 2025

Time: 11:30 AM – 12:47 PM

Location: Virtual

Facilitators: Farrah Nakatani, Sean Hughes, Jose Millan

Attendees

Rio Hondo College Faculty & Staff:

- Farrah Nakatani – Full-Time Faculty, Architecture/Civil Design
- Sean Hughes – Full-Time Faculty, Architecture/Civil Design
- Jose Millan – Faculty, Architecture/Engineering Design
- Bridgette Hernandez – Dean, Career and Workforce Education
- Maria Andrade-Hernandez – Interim Grant Manager
- Christopher Cooke – Job Developer
- Ruben Smith – IT Support (limited audio connection)

Industry Representatives:

- Jeff Michaels – Micronova
- Rodolfo Herrera – Project Engineer, Manufacturing
- Carlos Galdamez – Faculty, Mt. San Antonio College (and industry experience)
- Oye Oyeyipo – Aerospace Industry, Glendale
- John Flanco – Design & Drafting Professional
- Christine G.– Industry Partner

Academic Institution Partner:

- Dr. Mauricio Castillo – Cal State LA, Engineering Faculty

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Meeting opened by faculty Farrah Nakatani, Jose Millan, and Sean Hughes.
- Dean Bridgette Hernandez and Interim Grant Manager Maria Andrade-Hernandez provided opening remarks, commending program development and collaboration.
- Industry professionals and institutional partners introduced themselves.

2. Program Overview and High School Partnerships

- Review of degrees and certificates: curriculum progresses from manual drafting to CAD and manufacturing-related courses.
- Over 200 high school students earned college credit through dual enrollment from 11 partner schools.
- Annual student competitions in architecture, bridge design, and engineering attract strong participation.

3. Industry Feedback on Skills and Workforce Readiness

Technical Skills Identified as Priorities:

- Troubleshooting, diagnostics, machine operations, and basic manufacturing knowledge.
- Proficiency in SolidWorks, Revit, Civil 3D, and related modeling software.
- Understanding how to design for manufacturability and real-world application.

Soft Skills and Design Process Awareness:

- Importance of documenting disassembly/reassembly processes.
- Emphasis on critical thinking, planning, and communication during project execution.

Emerging Technologies:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly used in ideation, costing, material optimization, and sourcing.
- Employees are expected to manage full project workflows—from concept to manufacturing.

4. Curriculum, Facilities, and Program Development

- Facilities include CNC machines, laser cutters, one operational 3D printer, and a traditional shop.
- Limited access to lathes; outdated classroom computers noted.
- Curriculum includes Revit, SolidWorks, Inventor, and Civil 3D.

- Discussion emphasized adding practical teardown/redesign exercises, cost constraints, sourcing, and lean manufacturing content.

5. Motions and Voting Results

Motion	Proposed By	Outcome
Replace outdated classroom computers	Carlos Galdamez	Approved unanimously
Purchase additional 3D printers	Sean Hughes	Approved unanimously
Investigate purchase of hand 3D scanners based on curriculum needs	Sean Hughes (Amended Motion)	Approved unanimously
Support faculty professional development and certifications	Dr. Mauricio Castillo	Approved unanimously
Promote work-based learning (internships, site visits, guest speakers)	Farrah Nakatani	Approved unanimously

6. Future Collaboration and Opportunities

- Faculty encouraged to pursue site visits and explore industry micro-credentials.
- Maintain and expand partnerships with local high schools and 4-year institutions.
- Explore potential reactivation of specialized courses (e.g., piping design) based on industry demand.
- Continue incorporating industry trends, including automation and AI integration, into curriculum planning.

7. Announcements

- CWE Job Fair scheduled for May 15; free for employer participation. Shared by Job Developer Christopher Cooke.

Adjournment

Time: 12:47 PM

Next Meeting: To be determined.