



MEETING AGENDA & MINUTES

Location:	TechGrid 221 W Inyokern Rd Ridgecrest, CA and via Zoom: https://kccd-edu.zoom.us/j/82193672508
Date:	Wednesday, September 3, 2025
Time:	9:00AM - 11:00AM
Purpose:	Airframe Maintenance Technician Program Advisory Committee
Attachments:	Documents Folder – Google Link shared

ATTENDEES:

Name	Title	Organization	Attendance
Nicole Griffin	Dean, CTE	Cerro Coso Community College	Present
Dr. Jarrod Bowen	Professor, AERO Lead	Cerro Coso Community College	Present
David Vilicana	Professor, INDA Chair	Cerro Coso Community College	Present - Zoom
Terri Hack	CTE Counselor	Cerro Coso Community College	Present - Zoom
Katherine Cervantes	Administrative Secretary, CTE	Cerro Coso Community College	Present
Stu Witt	Consultant, Aviation Advisor	Witt and Associates	Present
Dr. David Smith	CEO	Mojave Air and Space Port	Present
Angel Zamarron	Student Employment & STEM Outreach	Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division	Present
Michael Kirkley	AMT Instructor	Muroc Joint Unified High School District	Present - Zoom
Alexia Svejda	Project Coordinator	Griffiss Institute	Present - Zoom
Adia Smith	Director of Employer Engagement	CVML Regional Consortium	Present - Zoom
James Coppersmith	Technical Director	NAWCWD VX-31	Present - Zoom
Luke Blanchette		NAWCWD VX-31	Present
Steven Wheatley	Deputy Maintenance Officer	NAWCWD VX-31	Present - Zoom
Nathan Dixon	Director	412th Maintenance Squadron, Edwards AFB	Present - Zoom

MEETING DETAILS:

- **Call to Order**
 - a. 9:05 AM by Nicole Griffin
- **Introductions (name, title, organization, and interest in this program)**
- **Program Overview**
 - a. Purpose of the advisory, by Nicole Griffin
 - b. Program Development and Timeline, by Nicole Griffin and Jarrod Bowen
- **Review of Labor Market Data**
 - a. Review of the analysis from COE (2023)
- **Review of Program and Courses/Industry Input**
 - a. Title Matters: recommendation for a different name/title. "Aviation Technology Engineering" Be deliberate on what the course covers: Technicians vs Engineers (for the baccalaureate)
 - b. Is there a Market? Yes, it's gigantic. Edwards staff 2,000 and has a reasonable turnover. Candidates need knowledge and experience. The majority are not engineers; they are technicians.
 - c. Global opportunities
 - d. FAA: How does test prep fall into the course? And what does that look like for someone coming out of the military? Would it convert to an FAA, or just be credit?

- i. Modeling a transfer from the FAA
 - ii. Testing guidelines are built into the curriculum
 - iii. Testing/passing the test is on the student, not built into the course
 - iv. Is offering the Test Prep course helpful?
 - v. 50% of those who go through the test prep have an advantage
- e. Suggest Cert to 2-Year degree to target high schoolers, including soft skills (how to present themselves, resume writing)
- f. Bridge the gap so people do not travel outside of our community because there are jobs here in the "aerospace valley." Growing talent locally has proven a high retention rate.
- g. We would be teaching skills, There is a need from several diff directions
- h. Potential for a noncredit CDCP test prep program, for AMP Prep Test for all levels, for newly graduated high school students and those retiring, looking to expand their resumes. – fulfilling a local need
- i. A Mobile Outfitted Van for service and maintenance that supports the course
- j. Where to locate this program? Transportation, housing for non-locals is challenging
 - i. How many online courses would be available?
 - ii. Need to dive into the curriculum further
 - iii. Virtual simulation is more cost-effective
 - iv. Can the virtual headsets be added to the van?
 - v. There is a need for hands-on mechanics
- k. Consideration for an intense Prep Course – Non-Credit (Goal for Air Traffic Control)/Min of 2 classes
- l. We need to tap into expert mechanics and get them in the classrooms to share their valuable knowledge
- m. Having the location in Mojave makes the most sense.
 - o Pulling in the Antelope Valley region for Edwards to create a central aviation learning hub
 - o In Mojave: the program is small, looking to expand.
 - o Applied for the DCIP grant (10.5m for a new facility, 15k sqft, 2 classrooms, propulsion lab)
 - o Currently have equipment and tools for general instruction
 - o Another small facility at local HS
 - o If they get the grant, everything we're talking about could be done there.
 - o Updates on grant status at the end of Sept. '25
 - o Invite to view the current facility
 - o The school is on Kern County Land

If the Grant does not go through, can we build something or charter students there?

- o That is a possibility

- **Challenges/Suggestions**

- a. Space: Partnerships & Land, Airplanes: Partnerships & Donations, Tools: Funds/Grants, Instructors

- **Program Recommendations**

- a. Programs: Aviation Mechanic Technician-Airframe; Aviation Mechanic Technician-General; Aviation Mechanic Technician-Powerplants
 - i. All three were recommended by unanimous vote w/ 1 abstention due to employer restrictions

- **Action Items**

- a. Site tour of Desert high school program will be scheduled and invitation to advisory members to follow

b. Next meeting TBD, but email communication will continue as needed.

- **Adjournment**

- a. Nicole Called to adjourn: 10:18 am