AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Notes
Airport Campus, Lecture Hall, 4:00-5:30pm, September 22, 2021

ATTENDEES:
☒ Tammy Burke, Exec Dir CTE
☐ Erick Anderson, Placer Subaru
☐ Al Chaffee, Al Chaffee Tires
☐ Eric Croft, Capital High School
☐ Don Cunningham, DJ’s Automotive
☐ Nick Fox, Point S Tire
☐ Todd Harding, Capital City Transmission
☐ Ken Iwen, Iwen Automotive
☒ John Johnson, Placer Motors
☒ Kit Johnson, J4 Automotive
☒ Bruce Knudsen, Montana Auto Dealers
☐ Frank Kolar, Kolar Tire
☒ Mark Lillrose, Montana Dept of Labor
☐ Scott Lynch, Helena Motors
☐ Horald Mitton, Lithia Chevrolet
☐ Howard Reed, Lithia Dodge
☐ Ronnie Robertson, Helena High School
☒ Glen Rubottom, Snap-On
☐ Eric Thomas, Harry’s Brakes & Alignment
☐ Sandy Bauman, Helena College Dean
☒ Bridget Guerin, Admin Associate CTE
☒ Dave Jones, Auto Instructor
☒ Jerry Stewart, Auto Instructor
☒ Shelby Zander, Career Connections Coor

- Apprenticeship Program

  a. What Is and Is Not Working

  i. Business partners would like more time to meet and get to know the student before they are partnered up.

  ii. Jerry will recommend which students are ready to go out into the workforce after the first 5 week block and which should have more practice time at HC before getting partnered.

  iii. Tammy or Bridget will send the MOU to the business partners for their review; Tammy suggested having a WebEx Meeting for all to give comments and make changes to the MOU.

    1. A Draft day will be planned for signatures by the student and the business partners.
b. Vetting and Placing Students
   
i. The students will all be asked the same set of open-ended questions during a
digital interview on campus; the digital interviews will be sent via email to the
business partners for them to review.

   ii. The students will have the opportunity to discuss what type of business
(dealership vs independent) they would like to work in – and then they will
interview with that business partner.

   iii. The business partner will get to interview the students they are most interested
in from the digital interviews.

   iv. First year students will work in the morning with classes starting at noon;
second year students will have classes in the morning and work in the
afternoons.

• Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Summit
   
a. Jerry has put together a 32 hour Hybrid & Electric Vehicle Program for Auto Mechanics
who are already employed and out in the workforce. HC has purchased several new
vehicles, equipment, and testing machines.

b. This will be offered through the Community Education Center through HC; Ryan Loomis
will be making a flyer and getting prices listed soon.

   i. It will be held twice a year (January & May) for approximately 12-15 students
each time.

      1. Options will be a 4 day training week for those people who may be out-of-towners or after work from 6:00-9:00 for a couple weeks for local
employees.

   ii. Bruce Knudsen offered to market the program and make videos to promote it.
He mentioned that the 12 spots shouldn’t have any problems filling quickly.

• New Certificate Option
   
a. AAS versus CAS – Courses Involved (a handout was given to each attendee)

   i. The CAS will be for all first year students who pass their courses.

      1. This certificate will give these students the opportunity to start working
with credentials right away.
2. Some students are not able to move onto the second year, for a variety of reasons, and this CAS shows that they have completed the basic courses.

3. They will have completed approximately 1/3 of the ASE tests.

ii. The AAS will be awarded to the students who complete two full years of the Automotive Program.

1. At the end of the two years the students will have 8 ASE certificates.

- Recruitment
  
a. Due to Covid-19 our recruiters didn’t get to go out into the local schools last year and were not able to travel.

b. HC has been working with EHPS; EHHS is very interested in setting up a program with HC to have their students bussed to HC every morning to take CTE classes & then bussed back to their school for their general classes in the afternoon.

i. Their students would then be able to have several college credit classes completed before they graduate from high school.

ii. HC is hoping/expecting the students will continue to take their college classes from HC after they graduate from EHHS.