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*Helena College Mission:*

*Helena College supports our diverse community by providing the paths and tools necessary to assist learners in achieving their educational and career goals.*

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**Aviation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 1, 2024 1:00 p.m.  
APC Room 209**

**I. Introductions:**

**Helena College Employees:**

Stephanie Hunthausen – Executive Director of CTE  
Tod Dumas – Aviation Instructor  
Wes Walker – Aviation Instructor  
Daniel Tripplehorn – Aviation Adjunct Instructor  
Kathy Mortimore – CTE Advisor and Career Specialist  
Melissa Mousel – Program Manager – CTE

**Aviation Advisory Board Members:**

Brent Vetter – Vetter Aviation  
Cliff Lynn – Neptune Aviation

**II. Program/Department Updates**

- Enrollment update and discussion of the recruitment/promotional events
  - Fall 2024
    - 20 First-Year students
    - 14 Second-Year students
  - Aviation Day, Manufacturing & Mechanics Night, Shadowing Days
- Updates of FAA changes to Part 147 curriculum: How we plan on implementing changes.
  - our instructors are now required to track outcomes listed in the ACS (Airman Certification Standards) rather than attendance hours. The outcomes listed in the in ACS are meant to be a fluid document that makes it easier to update the learning outcomes.
  - content in electrical and composites have been expanded.
  - wood structures, welding, finishes, fabric coverings, etc are no longer separate content topics.
  - written test and oral/practical exam are also driven by the ACS.
- At this time, we are working on a full revision of our curriculum to reflect the FAA changes.

- we would use sheet metal and composites classes to help address skills previously taught in courses that we are looking at taking out (such as wood structures, fabric covering, and welding classes).
- it is suggested to have students practice sheet metal in teams of two.
- the suggestion was made to do projects with practical electrical (trouble shooting, practical, basic) knowledge
- students need to learn how to adapt to different schematics
- Neptune installs avionics but does not repair.
- A Cessna Citation was donated to us and we purchased Tronair jacks for it.
- We also purchased a set of load cells that will work with the Citation.

### **III. Topics for Discussion**

#### **A. Student Performance:**

- Do you employ any Helena College graduates? How are they doing?
  - Neptune employs several of our former students and are happy with their performance.

#### **B. Student Preparation:**

- What non-technical (soft skills, 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, employability skills, etc.) are most important to you?
  - a shift of dynamics between being a student and an employee can be tough, so communication skills are important.
  - showing up on time.

#### **C. Upcoming needs:**

- What are your anticipated workforce needs? In 1 year, 3 years, 5 years?
  - there are many openings in our region, but one of the issues is retaining employees.

### **IV. Wrap up and Summary of Takeaways**

- With the FAA part 147 curriculum changes, the advisory board agrees that students could benefit from more instruction being devoted to sheet metal and composites in place of the hands-on projects related to fabric coverings and wood structures.
- It was suggested that the instructors look for ways to incorporate more group projects such as team sheet metal repair, which would prepare students for work-based situations.
- Everyone agrees that there is great value in students visiting employers. The first-year aviation classes will continue to visit employers like Neptune Aviation in the spring/early summer semester.