



Automotive Technology Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: February 19, 2025

External Participants:

Dan Doty – Owner, Motor 3D Auto Repair

Nick Little – Owner, Dunn’s Repair and Wrigley’s Garage

Meghan Huber – Owner, Motor Works

Joseph Wagner – Teacher, Hampshire High School

Dave Murphy – Operations in Service, Standard Equipment Co.

Timothy Tekiela – KEC Instructor – Kishwaukee Education Consortium

Internal participants:

Barbara Leach – Vice President of Instruction

Chase Budziak – Dean of Instruction

Jescelynn Gibbons – Associate Dean of Instruction

Shawn Long – Automotive Faculty

Tim Banasiak – Automotive Faculty

Catherine Macias – Administrative Specialist

- I. Program Update
 - A. Reviewed previous meeting minutes.
 - B. Spring 2025 Enrollment
 - i. College-Wide Growth: Enrollment has increased by 11.3% over Spring 2024.
 - ii. Automotive Program: the Automotive Maintenance Technology (AMT) program recorded 367 credit hours in Spring 2025, reflecting a 21.1% decrease over Spring 2024.
 1. Budziak explained that this decrease is largely related to the decision not to offer the automotive orientation course again in Spring 2025, as it is designated as a fall semester course. Additionally, four first-year students transitioned from full-time enrollment in the fall to part-time status in the spring.
 - C. Department Update
 - i. Upcoming event: DeKalb Township Senior Car Clinic April 25, 2025, at 9am to noon, by appointment, through DeKalb Township. Safety checks will be performed by Automotive Technology students as part of the automotive service and repair course.
 - ii. Equipment & Supplies
 1. Ordered 8 virtual reality computer workstations.



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2. The Automotive Technology department was awarded the Illinois REV UP Electric Vehicle Grant for \$446,250 through June 2026 which will help fund tools, training materials, equipment, and safety equipment for electric and hybrid vehicles.

II. Employer and Industry Update

A. Industry Update/Employer Needs – Committee Members

i. Trends and Emerging Needs

1. The automotive service industry is waiting for more information regarding tariffs as they are concerned about the impact potential tariffs will have on parts pricing.
2. Employers shared that Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) are a component that students and new graduates should have a basic introduction to as these systems (such as emergency automatic braking, adaptive cruise control, and blind spot monitoring) are becoming more prevalent in vehicles and are often subject to service and warranty claims.

B. Hiring

- i. David shared that Standard Equipment is hiring two service advisors and technicians.
- ii. Employers expressed that they are always looking to add new technicians to their staff.

C. Skills

- i. David emphasized the need for technicians to have the ability to communicate detailed information to ensure accurate billing and warranty claims.
- ii. Nick discussed working on skills to improve technical workflow and communication with service advisors and customers.

D. Technology and Tools

- i. Standard Equipment focuses on electric vehicles (EVs), with municipal fleets showing interest in these technologies.

E. Kish Graduate/Students – How are our graduates and students doing?

- i. No one currently has recent Kish graduates as employees.
- ii. Instructor Shawn Long offered the opportunity for employers to visit automotive classes to speak to students about the industry and open positions. Employers expressed interest and will reach out to Shawn for opportunities in the spring and fall semesters.

III. Accreditation Update



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- A. During the Fall 2024 meeting, the committee discussed continuing accreditation with the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Education Foundation (formerly the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation - NATEF). One of the challenges in the past was ensuring consistent advisory committee participation. However, advisory members have since committed to supporting the College's Automotive Technology program in its accreditation efforts. As a result of that meeting, the department researched the necessary steps to move forward with maintaining accreditation.
 - B. Accreditation Process and Requirements
 - i. Advisory Committee: At least five industry professionals unaffiliated with the College or recent graduates.
 - ii. Meeting Scheduling: As required for accreditation, advisory meetings will be scheduled for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026, and the meetings would include a safety and equipment walkthrough.
 - iii. Evaluation Team: Identify four committee members who are professionals from the industry who are not affiliated with the College or recent graduates for on-site evaluation.
 - iv. Self-Evaluation & Application: committee members and College review findings and submit application in Spring 2026.
 - C. Next Steps: The College will review the next steps and make a determination prior to the fall 2025 semester. They will communicate needs with the advisory committee prior to the fall advisory meeting.
- IV. Discussion
- A. Curriculum
 - i. Barbara Leach announced plans to revise the English 109 technical writing curriculum based on feedback from advisory committees and invited further input from employers once a draft was completed.