



Automotive Technology Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: March 25, 2026

External Participants:

Bill White – Owner, Bill White’s C.A.R. Hospital, Inc.

Dan Siener – Technician, Arndt Automotive

Kim Slenn – Service Advisor, Arndt Automotive

Andy Arndt – Owner, Arndt Automotive

Dave Murphy – Product Specialist, Standard Equipment

John Volkert – Owner, Barb City Automotive

Meghan Huber – Owner, Motor Works

Internal Participants:

Jescelynne Gibbons – Associate Dean of Instruction

Timothy Banasiak – Automotive Faculty

Shawn Long – Automotive Faculty

Catherine Macias – Administrative Specialist I

I. College Updates

- A. Spring 2026 enrollment declined by 1%, enrollment growth anticipated for Fall 2026.
- B. The College’s all-inclusive tuition model, including textbooks, has received national recognition.
 - i. The Automotive program uses Open Educational Resources (OER) that can be used across several semesters.
- C. Tuition will remain flat for the upcoming year, and the College will continue its all-inclusive tuition model.
- D. The College anticipates \$30 million in capital improvements over the next three to four years, focused on essential infrastructure upgrades.
 - i. Construction of a new greenhouse will begin later this month following Board approval.
 - ii. The roof of the Caukin Building will be replaced this summer.

II. Department Updates

- A. Spring Semester Updates
 - i. AMT Enrollment has decreased 0.8 %.
 - ii. RevUp Grant
 - 1. Space expansion
 - a. Electric and hybrid vehicle lab space in development.
 - b. Partner tour planned for Fall 2026.
 - 2. Purchases



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- a. Six electric vehicles were purchased.
 - b. Twelve new toolboxes were added to support student access.
 - 3. Professional Development
 - a. Banasiak and Long received training at Weber State on electric/hybrid vehicles, Tesla models, and battery systems in early March.
 - b. Business partners noted EV registrations around 5% in DeKalb County.
 - iii. Curriculum Updates
 - 1. Electric and hybrid vehicle training will become a required course in the Fall semester.
 - 2. Business partners emphasized the importance of obtaining National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification for faculty and will provide additional input and expectations for future program planning.
 - a. Current faculty teaching requirements include either 2,000+ hours of industry experience with a bachelor's degree in automotive technology or 6,000+ hours with an associate's degree in automotive technology.
 - b. Banasiak and Long remain members of the Illinois College Automotive Instructors Association and receive ongoing education through this organization.
 - iv. TRIAD Senior Car Clinic
 - 1. Clinic to be held on May 1, 2026 from 9-11am in the Automotive Lab.
 - a. Senior citizens will receive basic vehicle safety checks; students will gain hands-on and communication experience.
 - b. TRIAD will bring multiple vendors to participate.
- III. Partner Updates
 - A. Hiring/Labor Market Needs
 - i. Continued high demand for automotive technicians reported by business partners.
 - B. Other Updates
 - i. Business partner and faculty report increased student use of artificial intelligence (AI) for troubleshooting automotive issues, noting that it can sometimes generate inaccurate guidance.
 - 1. Automotive faculty plan to provide students with printed instructional guides to reduce reliance on artificial intelligence (AI) and ensure accurate troubleshooting guidance and improve critical thinking skills.