



Automotive Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: September 16, 2026

External Participants:

Dan Doty – Owner, 3D Auto Repair
John Volkert – Owner, Barb City Automotive
Nick Little – Owner, Wrigley's Garage
Megan Huber – Owner, Motor Works
Dave Murphy – Product Specialist, Standard
Corey Arndt – Owner, Arndt Automotive
Sean Kellett – Owner, Think Drive

Internal Participants:

Jescelynne Gibbons – Dean of Instruction
Kristine Adzovic – Associate Dean of Instruction
Timothy Banasiak – Automotive Faculty
Shawn Long – Automotive Faculty
Laura Gregory – Employment & Job Placement Services Coordinator
Catherine Macias – Administrative Specialist

I. College Updates

- A. Enrollment
 - i. Overall college enrollment is down slightly (-1.7%).
- B. FY27 College Goals
 - i. Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) are being revised to emphasize essential employability skills across all courses.
- C. Upcoming Events
 - i. Joint Advisory committee meeting on April 7, 2027, from 11:00am – 1:00pm.
 - ii. CTE Open House: October 15, 2026, from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 - iii. Fundraiser Event: Evening at Kish on November 5, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 - iv. Greenhouse Ribbon Cutting: November 5, 2026, at 4:00pm.
- D. Digital Badges
 - i. External partners shared mixed perspectives on digital badges; some emphasized using their own vetting processes, while others viewed Kishwaukee digital badges as valuable.
- E. ASE Accreditation



KISHWAUKEE COLLEGE

- i. External partners affirmed the importance of accreditation for the program's future and committed to providing support as needed.

II. Department Updates

A. Fall Semester Updates

- i. AMT Enrollment: Overall enrollment declined by (-10.4%), representing approximately 60 credits hours.
- ii. RevUp Grant Closeout: The electric vehicles and supplies purchased through the grant continue to support student learning, with strong student engagement reported.
- iii. AMT Curriculum updates
 - 1. Long shared that the previously approved AMT 219: Hybrid & Electrical Vehicle Tech course continues to perform well with strong enrollment.
 - 2. Lab space: Faculty have worked to utilize underutilized shop space and are exploring improvements to the automotive lab infrastructure.
- iv. Part-time Automotive Toolroom Attendant position is available.

III. Partner Updates

A. Hiring/Labor Market Needs

- i. External partners reported continued demand for automotive technicians across the industry.
 - 1. Critical thinking skills and self-motivation are key industry needs.
 - 2. Diesel light duty should be explored within the program.

B. Other Updates

- i. Gibbons shared that a Perkins Program of Study for the automotive program has been submitted to the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the College is waiting for approval.

C. Open Discussion

- i. External employers shared that they would be willing to shadow more students in their shops if needed and encourage the program to explore apprenticeship opportunities.
- ii. Gregory shared information on the Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant, which supports paid internships, and encouraged external partners to contact her for additional details.
 - 1. Employer feedback indicated interest in developing a work-study/co-op model that would allow students to alternate between three months of on-the-job experience and three months of continuing education.