

Wednesday October 26, 2022 4:30 PM

Minnesota West Community and Technical College Electrician Program Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

Chairperson: Chris Swoboda

Secretary: Trevor Humphrey

Invitees: Rob Arp, Chris Swoboda, Trevor Humphrey, Judy Drown, Curt Nelson, Matt Dullerud, Jim Skjefte, Mike Meier, Tim Zinniel, Jesse Hoffman, Lance Baumann, Craig Peters, Eric Carlson, Mike Raley, Tim Gilmore, Anthony Johnson, Gage Holling, Meghan Hanna, and Gary Olsen.

- **Call to Order (room 106)**
 - 4:37 pm
 - Attendees / Introductions: Rob Arp, Chris Swoboda, Judy Drown, Curt Nelson, Matt Dullerud, Mike Meier, Jesse Hoffman, Craig Peters, Eric Carlson, Mike Raley, Tim Gilmore, Anthony Johnson, Gage Holling, Meghan Hanna, and Gary Olsen.

- **Campus Tour Electrical Department**
 - Tour of Electrical Department, Residential and PLC/Motor Labs, Classrooms & Tech Building.

- **Roll Call**
 - (see above)
 - Supper & Socializing

- New Business
 - 5:20 pm
 - **Enrollment number for Fall of 2022.**
 - Canby – numbers are down this year
 - i. First Year = 12 students (20 applicants)
 - ii. Second Year = 15 students
 - iii. Limit is 24 students without appeals
 - Jackson
 - i. First Year = 28 students (started with 32 students)
 - ii. Second Year = 28 students
 - iii. Running some double sections for lab
 - iv. Limit is 40 students
 - Why is Jackson seeing higher numbers than Canby?
 - i. Jackson Resource Specialist called each applicant on the list
 - ii. Instructor contacts, calls and emails

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- **What each college is doing for recruitment (job fairs) etc.**
 - Canby
 - i. 5 Job Fairs last year
 - 1. Ex: Reverse Job fair in St. Cloud (Teachers), Marshall, Worthington, etc.
 - ii. This year – 3 done and 2 more upcoming
 - iii. Commitments become too much in addition to teaching = Long Days
 - Resurgence of “Tech Ed” classes in High Schools (ex: Windom, Fairmont)
 - i. Electrical is difficult to incorporate due to student safety issues
 - Jackson students seem to be participating in sports more and are being bussed to Worthington for practices / games (etc.)
 - Student Scholarship / Tuition Programs: JBS & AgCo are funding some students with commitments to work during or after program completion: Example = JBS asking for 2-year work commitment (electrical maintenance) to “pay back” tuition.
 - What other Programs and activities are offered to attract more male & female students to campuses?
 - i. Canby – Dental classes are smaller right now – lots of virtual classes
 - ii. Jackson - Cosmetology is active and makes a difference-more diverse student population
 - Student Housing
 - i. Canby = Carr Hall available
 - ii. Jackson – high number of commuters = little housing available.
- **Industry Partnerships.**
 - Jackson: Feels these partnerships are saving them right now.
 - i. Leveraged Funds and Donations (ex: 7000’ of conduit donated)
 - Canby: Materials / supplies are still expensive and difficult to procure (back order)
 - JBS sponsorship of students is a good program.
 - Looking at starting more programs like “Build South Dakota”
 - Request from Instructors to encourage donations and ask partners to keep the schools in mind for all types of material donations (conduit, etc.) The students use the materials wisely and conservatively. Instructors state they have needed to use alternate materials for training students in some situations.
- **Demand for electricians. (from industry partners)**
 - YES! Major demand for electricians.
 - Canby – First year students = 5 already have jobs in the electrical field. Last year, almost ALL 1st year students were working in electrical. Recruiting is already happening and LOTS of great opportunities are being offered allowing 2nd year student to “cherry pick” and be more selective.
 - Most Students know what they want to do already and are focused on local contractors & hometown opportunities with less travel.

- **Past Year's NOCTI Test Results Jackson & Canby.**
 - GOOD Overall – Above state & national levels
 - Canby Scores = Group 76.4%, Site 78.8%
 - Jackson Scores = Group 73.2%, Site 75
 - NOTE: Compare to State 75.7 and 71% National levels.
 - NOCTI is a 12-section assessment which is administered annually (April) by campus Resource Specialists (not instructors) and is funded by Perkins dollars.
 - Instructors can see results and can identify areas of strength / weakness.
 - The instructors encourage best efforts be put forward by students to achieve strong test results which they can use on resumes and attract employers.

- **Review of the past year of material cost and what to look for this year.**
 - Jackson: State the current budget cannot sustain the costs of materials as some items are up by as much as 400%.
 - MNState is asking for \$400million to help day to day program costs and salaries.
 - Difficulty in attracting instructors because the pay scale is low compared to being in the field which leaves positions open (ex: Powerline & Diesel positions) and fosters the need to relax qualifications of instructors (ex: Journeyman VS. Masters License to teach electrical).
 - Student Credit costs are \$200 per credit with a 3% limit on annual increases.
 - i. 78 credits needed for diploma
 - ii. 82 credits for AAS
 - iii. More students are seeing the AAS than before.
 - When material costs go up but prices stay the same (tuition) then what happens??
 - Budgets are being examined and the administration sees the proof of the problems.
 - Foresight: Buying in bulk could be a partial solution to help defray future costs (for example: one roll of copper wire has gone from \$136 to \$700 per roll – costs are outrageous for materials / supplies)
 - Faulty data was presented so the range of reimbursement from the state was not accurate. Waiting for further results. Goal is to work to keep program within range when accurate data is present.

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- **Student Address: Experience, comments about their school.**
 - Anthony: First year = a LOT of learning. Coming from a background of electrical, he loves the hands-on aspects of the program. He really likes MNWest.
 - Gage: First year = moved here from Washington state (girlfriend is at SDSU). He was raised on a farm and family encouraged him to pursue “something else” before they will allow him to return to farming. He toured both WA and other schools but was VERY impressed by the LabVolt and NIDA labs in Canby. He is impressed with the programs and states it is what he thought it would be and, at this point, feels a strong interest in Residential.
 - Tim – Second year = his dad is an alumni of the Diesel program in Canby, so there was a connection. He toured both Mitchell tech and Canby and states what set Canby apart was the promise of working one on one with students to ensure success. He believes the instructors have followed through and that he has received the one on one attention he hoped for.
 - When asked about opportunities, all three students agreed that YES, they are hearing about plenty of opportunities and are feeling that they can be selective. They are getting out in the community (ex: Border States open house) and are talking with vendors to learn more about the industry.
 - The students are seeing there is a huge variety of jobs for which an electrical degree qualifies them.
 - The instructors make sure the students know that not everyone will want to or be capable of installing, but they CAN find their niche in the industry. Students are encouraged to search and explore options. Border States reps do a presentation for the students about “what you can do with your degree” which has been enlightening.
- **Open Floor Discussion**
 - Meeting Time: Could the Annual Advisory Board Meeting be held during the day in the future? The consensus was NO because it’s hard to give up the valuable time / daylight / weather / ground freeze / seasonal change at this time of year. It was agreed the meetings will start in late afternoon and will rotate between campuses (C&J) and Key Largo over the years.
- **Adjournment:**
 - Thank you to all for attending!
 - Invited to continue the tour at Tech Building if interested.
 - Meeting Adjourned at 6:05 pm