



**Powersports Technology Jackson Campus
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2018**

Location of Meeting: *Email Letter from Powersports Instructor*

Current and Future Members Emailed:

Phil Handevidt @ Jackson Sports, Larry Clymer @ Jackson Cycle, Phillip Peterson @Fleet Farm Ace Hardware, Gregg Bohl @ Bohl's Small Engine & Marine,

Purpose of Meeting: *Receive input from current business owners and technicians.*

Letter that was sent to them:

Current and Future Advisory Board Members,

February 20, 2018

The Powersports Technology program at Minnesota West Community and Technical College is undergoing significant structural changes to how we offer the program. As part of the review process, we need to share our plans with industry partners and solicit endorsements and/or recommendations.

I am writing this letter seeking your response on the program modifications. We have completed our internal college processes. Our next step is to submit the changes to the state system office.

Our new plan presents a structure that will fundamentally change how we present material to our students. The first key of this change is presentation of core skills that are common in both the Powersports and Automotive programs. The shared courses are identified with the course prefix TRAN. All of the core courses will be part of the first semester in both programs.

The technical courses are presented by industry sector, those being outdoor power equipment, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles. Students will be learning the necessary skills to perform common service procedures, diagnose system failure and wear, and complete repairs of the various systems on these equipment types.

The following pages present the courses as they are currently developed. While we have preliminary approval for these, we are able to make revisions and modifications if they are needed.

What we need from you are comments and suggestions on what we have designed. Does it make sense? Will this training plan yield the skills and knowledge you are looking for in future graduates and employees? Please provide us your feedback either in support or in needing adjustment.

We have engaged a strong outreach plan for the balance of this year with the expectation to continue into next year. Our college marketing team has scheduled our faculty team to visit one or two high schools every Friday through graduation. We have developed several engaging activities we can take into classrooms of students and give them a small taste of what the transportation careers are about. The reception so far has been extremely positive and we are reaching many kids with our presentations.

I would greatly appreciate a response to this email by Friday, February 27, with your acceptance for our changes. Please feel free to call me if you wish to have a discussion related to these changes. Thank you!

Jason P. Bohl

Power Sports Instructor

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We received emails from current Advisory Board members and also potential members who own or manage outdoor and Powersports businesses. Everyone that responded to the email agreed that having the classes touch on specific product areas from start to finish sounded like a good idea. They did have a few concerns that are listed below. We will revisit these concerns at the next Advisory Board meeting.

- One concern mentioned by a couple dealers is that the content covered when the classes are joined together with the Automotive. The dealers that voiced this concern understand that the combination of the classes is a way that we are preserving the two programs due to small class sizes.*
- Another concern with the combination is that the word will get out and it will eventually lead to the downsizing of the classes due to students being unhappy about the combination of the classes.*
- Dealers also feel that the snowmobile market is falling off and we should be paying more attention to the UTV market instead of snowmobiles.*
- Dealers also asked why we are not discussing the watercraft side of Powersports.*
- The question has been brought up regarding instructors not being at school for the students that are already paying for school when the instructor is out marketing the program at schools or at career fairs.*
- Dealers are asking that we start using the "flat rate" time system so that the students get used to it, and then discuss how that time affects the business and their performance as a technician.*
- Dealers are also asking that we implement the use of a time clock so that will be able to track how much time a particular job has taken them to complete.*
- Dealers would like to see the students in contact with the public in lots of different situations in the shop so that they get more experience with customers in different situations that arise in the operations of a shop.*

Minutes written by Jason Bohl