



Auto Body Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Allan Hancock College Conference Room O-102

Monday, December 11, 2017

5:00 – 6:15 p.m.

In attendance: Eric Mason, Rod Ruiz, Danny Merkel, Rob Hill, John Watanabe, Hector Paz, and Corrin Terrones

Welcome: Eric Mason, Advisory Committee Chairperson

Discussion:

- Introduction of Advisory Committee Members
 1. Members went around the room and introduced each other
- Overview of Program
 1. Hector, owner of Premier Auto Body, is now becoming Fix Auto
 - Fix Auto is a MSO franchise, they are contracted with 5 insurance companies
 - At this time in rebranding phase and will eventually have an open house
 - Currently has 2 shops in Santa Maria, working on adding a shop in Arroyo Grande and a third shop in Santa Maria
 - Fix offers all in house training with perks to completing the training
- Employment Outlook
 - Technician Rates
 - Flat rate is about \$17-24 an hour for a technician in Santa Maria and \$16-20 an hour for a painter
 - John said with what insurance companies payout and rising overhead costs it is getting more and more difficult to increase Technician rates
 - Hector said that technicians are being paid more everywhere outside the Santa Maria area
 - All agreed that with insurance companies paying for shorter labor times and increased costs in materials, Technicians need to change with the times
- New Dealerships
 - Rod said the new Home Motors will be across from Santa Maria Ford
 - Looking to hire more Auto Body employees, Eric will send his top students over with a letter of recommendation
 - In that area we will be getting Honda, Lexus, Toyota, and others

- Still deciding if Auto Body shop will move to old Honda shop or to the new place (at least 2 years out)
- Rod is noticing that more and more dealerships are not providing collision repair and they are not taking care of their own cars before selling them
- Warranty work pays at high labor rate but low hours
- With advances in equipment technicians are needed to be more computer gurus than doing hands on work
- Insurance Companies
 - All starting to require a pre and post diagnose

New Equipment/Needs

- Eric said that his budget cannot afford waterborne paint for the advanced classes
- Hector offered that Eric could take his extra waterborne paint whenever he needs some
- John said that new spray guns are needed/different types so students can learn with what industry is using
- Rod and Hector said industry is using nitrogen plastic welders, students should know how to use it before being hired

Lab and classroom space

- Space is sufficient only have equipment needs

Scholarships

- If you are interested in offering a scholarship contact Toni McCracken
- Hector would like to offer Fix Auto Scholarship instead of Vapor Trails

Advisory Committee Needs/Concerns

- Rod and Hector said that technicians needs to be fully ICARD certified
 - AHC currently only does ASE certifications
 - Eric said that there is talk about ICARD and ASE teaming up for secondary schools to get certifications, he will look into it more
 - Eric said that cost is the main sticking point, we do teach at ICARD standards
 - Hector said that he will not hire anyone that has not started their ICARD certification and if we offered it, he believes our enrollment would increase

Action items:

- **Equipment needs the Committee agrees the program needs**
 - **Spray Guns: Tekna, Iwata, and Supernova to use what industry is using**
 - **Nitrogen Plastic Welder to fix bumpers and headlights**

Adjourned at 6:15 pm

Minutes taken by Corrin Terrones, 12/11/17