



Advanced Manufacturing -MINUTES
April 15, 2025, at 12:00 PM
Foster Hall Room 108

Members Present: Jay Schmidt (Committee Chair) Board Chair, SW WA High-Tech Council; Alyssa Joyner, SR. Project Manager; Workforce SW WA; Mark Stanley, Recruitment and Training (retired/part-time), Columbia Machine; Craig Lahti, Manufacturing Manager, Columbia Machine; Margarita Marochkina, Business Navigator, WorkSource; Brad D'Emilio, General Operations Manager, Kyocera International Inc; Nate XT; Will Macia, Dir. Ops, Blazer Modular MFG

Guests:

Members Absent: Toni Neary, Director of Community Engagement & Workforce, SME; Beto Dantas, President & CEO, Impact Electronic Solutions; Jeff Ripp, Leadman, USNR; Connor Lenhart, Welding Process Specialist, Airgas

Labor Representative: Labor recruitment attempted

Clark College: Will Zander, Department Chair, Clark College; Elizabeth Flores, Advisory Coordinator, Clark College; Ann Campbell, Director of Community, Continuing Education and Customized Training; Justin Stokes, Associate Director of Development and Partner Engagement at Clark College Foundation; Kathy Chennault, Director of Development, Corporate & Foundation Relations, Clark College Foundation; Carl Douglas, Director of SEMCE, SBCTC

The meeting began at 12:11 PM

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will meet next on October 7, 2025, at noon.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting on February 18, 2025, were approved.

BYLAWS

Jay welcomed all committee voices to the table to offer guidance and support.
The committee reviewed the draft of the bylaws.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Will shared that the Advanced Manufacturing program has received state approval. The building will be open for select Spring 2025 courses. While the shop floor is still undergoing coding work, and some equipment is currently not operational, progress is underway.

Will announced that the Advanced Manufacturing full course will begin in the fall of 2025 with a capacity of 16 students. There are discussions about a second cohort in the winter of 2025.

Will discussed that the program is hoping to invite industry partners as guest speakers.

Jay inquired about where students are learning about the program.

Will shared through word of mouth or through running start.

Will announced that the program is hoping to hire a lab tech to facilitate lab activities, additionally a full-time instructor for the winter.

Jay inquired about future marketing plans for the program and asked if there is more structure or strategy.

Ann noted that the program hopes to do more industry training.

Nate asked if the curriculum is available to review.

Jay inquired about a website for the program.

Justin noted the foundation has a dedicated website for Boschma Farms.

Kathy suggested connecting with the Communications and Marketing team at Clark College to initiate the Advanced Manufacturing web page.

Margarita offered to support outreach or marketing events with the program. Margarita welcomed staff, faculty and administrators to reach out to her.

Will discussed the expected utilization for the program.

Will discussed the need of hiring additional faculty and encouraged recommendations for adjunct faculty.

Kathy welcomed committee members to connect with The Clark College Foundation about site tours.

Carl discussed the program's goal to achieve a four-cohort model.

WORKING SESSION/OPEN DISCUSSION

Jay discussed the need to outline desired outcomes for the program. Jay welcomed the committee collaboration on the topic, what are the most important items for success and how do we measure them?

Feedback

- Brad and Kathy shared the importance of livable wages, program completion and preparedness for the workforce. Brad and Kathy recommended ongoing communications with employers about employee satisfaction feedback. And creating a system to track student/alumni data such as: how many students completed the program, obtained work and employer satisfaction.
- Will and Craig discussed the success of students would be observed in a finished product and in an Advanced Manufacturing a product (begin with the end in mind)
Will noted that the progress of the first cohort iteration will be important to inform the next cohort.

- Alyssa and Carl noted that the primary goal is to get students employed during or following their education. Alyssa and Carl highlight a challenge such as not tracking students once they graduate. They recommended creating an Advanced Manufacturing LinkedIn group and encouraging students to sign up so the program could track alumni.
- Alyssa and Carl suggested that the program ensures applicable skills by industry are current. Or on an annual basis the program hosts a DACUM (Developing a Curriculum) as it will allow the program to adjust for efficiency.
- Will and Mark emphasized the importance of ensuring that the certificate leads to strong employment opportunities. They highlighted the value of students gaining well-rounded experience across various machines and equipment, rather than being limited to a single specialization. Mark also stressed that soft skills—such as flexibility and consistency—are essential for student success in the workforce.
- Will shared that the AAT will be named, Integrative Technician.
- Jay expressed support for the concept of multi-disciplinary knowledge and emphasized the value of being able to perform a wide range of tasks.
- Nate recommended reviewing and modeling some type of aspects to the curriculum at Perry Technical Institute and Nate is in support of the AAT.
- Craig stated the need for machining and fabricating. Craigs recommends not completely modeling Perry Technical Institute as it focuses on control, engineering and design work is very specific.

ACTION ITEMS

Elizabeth will conduct a poll with the committee to review and approve the bylaws.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores