



HiTECC -MINUTES
April 10, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Clark College JSH Room 112

Members Present: Cory Pierce (Vice-Chair) Shop Foreman, Dick Hannah Volkswagen of Vancouver; Tom Gilstrap, Assistant Program Manager, Dick Hannah Subaru; Alex Bassett, Service Director, Dick Hannah Honda; Cyndee Lamar, Parts and Service Director, Dick Hannah CJDR; Dustin Deschamps, Shop Foreman, Dick Hannah CJDR

Guests: Zachary Thomas, Dick Hannah Honda; Andy Siharaj, Dick Hannah Kia

Members Absent: John Parthenay, Technician, Dick Hannah Honda

Labor Representative:

Clark College: Dannie Nordsiden, Department Chair, Clark College; Theo Koupelis, Dean of WPTE & STEM, Clark College; Bob Maloney, Instructor, Clark College; Brian Tracy, Instructor, Clark College; Wende Fisher, Advising Services, Clark College; Niira Krupnick, Career Services, Clark College; Elizabeth Flores, Advisory Coordinator, Clark College

The meeting began at 9:06 AM

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will meet next on Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting on October 3, 2025, were approved.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Theo discussed that Clark College enrollments are steady.

Theo mentioned that the college welcomed Dr. Terry Brown as the Vice President of Instruction last summer.

Theo announced the launch of the Advanced Manufacturing Center at Boschma Farms in Ridgefield, WA. The program is set to begin in the fall of 2025.

Theo welcomed the committee to bring questions or college updates to the committee.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

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Dannie presented the Academic Institute Research for the automotive program that included both the HiTECC and TTEN programs and shared that the program's enrollment has increased.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Tom presented the motion to elect Alex Bassett as interim committee chair, Cyndee seconded, and all unanimously approved.

BYLAWS

The committee will review the bylaws at the fall 2025 meeting.

RECRUITING UPDATES AND GOALS

Hernan noted a strong interest in candidate seeking dealership opportunities. The current class size capacity is set to 20 candidates. The program shared that many students are looking to be sponsored. Hernan shared that some have completed general education courses, and some are still in high school.

Alex shared that he experienced more than 20 students who are interested in sponsorship and inquired about how to determine students on the list.

Dannie discussed the structure of onboarding a student.

Cyndee inquired how the dealerships know when the student has touched base with the college.

Hernan instructed his procedure for referring students.

Tom discussed challenges with student onboarding and the difficulty of knowing if the students are enrolled in the school. Tom recommended a structure or list that can be updated.

INTERNSHIP UPDATES

Dannie shared a recent meeting Dick Hannah and The Clark College Foundation which allowed the program to secure sponsorship with local dealerships for the next academic year. Dannie shared discussions shared in the meeting, such as the onboarding process, and discussed potential revisions to the process.

Dannie discussed the assets and creating revolving topics and updates within the industry for student knowledge. The program will be able to obtain the asset program with the cars and secure sponsorship.

Alex suggested clear communication, as the emails can be challenging to decipher.

Dannie agreed and ensured the placement of the right mentee with their mentor to guarantee success.

Tom discussed the challenges with the onboarding process. Tom shared insight into the number of students the dealerships try to maintain.

Alex noted ASE challenges, such as some tasks in class do not translate into the ASE tests. The Motor Age books have been helpful for some students.

Dannie shared that the program provides students with textbooks and practice tests to ensure ASE success.

Theo discussed adding a mock exam to the curriculum.

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Bob discussed the value of ASE tests and certifications and the importance of translating the importance to students.

FIRST YEAR COHORT

Dannie discussed that the first-year cohort will begin this summer of 2025.

Dannie displayed the ASE count for second-year students for 2025. Dannie shared that the program received approval from Pearl Metric to allow for the development of a testing site at Clark College.

The program is in favor of the development of the testing center.

Alex inquired if students share with the program of pass or a no pass. Additionally, Alex asked if the program has office hours or study sessions.

Bob shared that the program does have office hours, and study sessions are in the process.

Theo discussed the need for an assessment center, and the program and administrators are trying to obtain internal funding to create the center.

STUDENT ONBOARDING

Theo discussed the concerns in the student onboarding process, and if there are still unanswered questions, the program would be happy to work with the dealerships to create a formal process.

Tom noted that a tracking system would be helpful, such as a tracking sheet that is updated once a month. Tom noted concerns that many students arrive at the dealership without speaking with Hernan or the program.

Theo recommended an Excel file with a color-coding system that provided clear, detailed tracking. A centralized file would be helpful for the dealership and the program.

Alex noted that the application displayed on the dealership website needs to be revised, removed, or updated.

Alex discussed the potential of removing the application from the website, simplifying and directing the students to the school.

Tom recommended that if the Excel sheet is developed, it would be important to add the source, such as where Hernan recruited the students from, such as Yakima High School, etc.

SECOND YEAR COHORT

Dannie displayed the second-year student cohort

OLD BUSINESS

Discussed the graduate surveys that will be shared over the summer.

The program discussed AIR as a part of the assessment that surveys past alumni students (5 years plus)

The program discussed asset changes in the process arriving and the continued sponsorship with Dick Hannah.

The program discussed the importance of emphasizing the latest technology to inform students about changes in the industry.

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The program discussed Cascadia mou in practice. The program will continue to partner with Dan Robetson on further developments.

NEW BUSINESS

Dannie discussed student engagement feedback and noted the importance of keeping students busy with work and engaged.

Dannie discussed mutual commitments and thanked our partners for their support and guidance.

WORK PLAN

Dannie discussed items from the work plan, such as developments in newer technologies.

Dannie discussed budget items at the state level. The program is trying to work on obtaining student feedback and enrolling 25-30 first-year students.

Alex recommended night classes.

Dannie noted that historically, night classes did not work.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores