



**MINUTES**  
**SRJC – Sonoma County High Schools**  
**Automotive Technology Meeting**  
Thursday, October 1, 2009, Noon – 1:30  
SRJC – Lounibous Hall

**Attendees:**

Present: Troy Aldridge, Freeman Collision; Don Billing, CGHS; Fred Brunton, PCSD; John Chocholak, UHS; Mason Forkey, Sichel's Auto Body; Lonnie Harwell, Maria Carrillo High School; Stephen Jackson, Director, SCOE/ROP; Gray Kramer, SnapOn Industrial; Ron Luongo, AHS; John Rossi, RCHS; Chuck Rowe, Hansel Prestige Imports; Richard Schreuder, Big Valley Wine Tours; Mark Stratos, CGHS; Paul Adelman SRJC; Steve Cohen, Dean, SRJC; Rick Hull, Mechanic/SRJC; Jim Kelly, Chair, SRJC; Bob Miller, SRJC; Eve Nighswonger, SRJC; Cliff Norton, SRJC; Ed Sikes, SRJC; Gordon Yaswen, SRJC; Dave Yoast, SRJC; Kris Dalby, SRJC.

**Members Unable to Attend:**

Don Brink, DuPont; Fred Brunton, Auto/ PCSD; Vic Colli, Auto/SRHS; Hari Dhaliwal, Drive Rite Auto Repair; Jerry Marquis; Nancy Miller, SRCS

**Agenda:**

- **Welcome**
  - Introductions were made, and the Minutes from the prior meeting were approved.
- **Public Comments and New Business**
  - SRJC will once again host Skills USA either the last Saturday in January or the first Saturday in February due to coordinating schedules with SRHS welding and wood shops. To avoid miscommunication, a written letter will be sent to all high school teachers well in advance. There may be a conflict with the Ford AAA contest. Steve Cohen, Dean, SRJC, and Richard Schreuder plan on talking with high school teachers to promote participation. Last year, the automotive team from Healdsburg High School won the regional event and went on to state and to national competitions.
  - The CITEA annual conference was held last Saturday at Petaluma High School. It was well attended by industry and high school teachers.
  - The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual CTE conference is scheduled for 11/07/10, at SCOE, 5340 Skylane Blvd., Santa Rosa. More information can be obtained at [www.scoe.org](http://www.scoe.org). The conference is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and a continental breakfast will be served.
  - The Chancellor's office will be sending people to various colleges in the state to check on the status of articulation. The Vice Chancellor is pressing for a closer tie between articulation and

funding. Federal funding such as CTEA may also soon have articulation requirements tied to it, as well as active advisory groups. More effort is needed to publicize the many programs available at SRJC.

- Industry advisory committee members were asked for feedback on the merit of repairing the 1983 Hunter alignment machine. Freeman Collision has a new Hunter alignment machine, but prefers to hire employees who have been trained on newer machines. While the older machines provide the basics of alignment, the newer models are much different and more computer driven. Alignment skills are critical to both mechanical and collision repair. Alignment is more than tire wear and can result in problems with steering due to computer controls.
- Prestige Imports prefers employees be trained on fairly modern equipment. PCSD has a newer alignment machine with reflectors, which is a great advantage. HHS has a Hunter Laser Alignment machine, which is one of the most accurate.
- The committee unanimously agreed that a new state of the art alignment, tire, and balancing machines is needed to train students on skills desired by industry.
  
- **Full Time Faculty Approved**
  - Cliff Norton was introduced to the committee.
  
- **Budget, Schedule Reductions, and Enrollment:**
  - Discretionary funds were reduced 5% and are expected to be reduced an additional 10%. The class schedule has been reduced an additional 15%.
  
- **Alternative Fuels Program**
  - The Alternative Fuels program moved in to the back of the auto shop providing access to lifts and their own space.
  - The new certificate program has been approved, and course approval is underway.
  
- **Articulation:**
  - Work on articulation with high school automotive classes continues. The first Credit by Exam test will be offered in December and requires enrollment in an SRJC course and payment of residency fees. An alternative policy is in the process of approval and provides for the high school instructor to proctor the challenge exam at the high school site without payment of fees. The instructor forwards passing grades to SRJC for immediate application on their transcripts. Oscar Guajardo will be visiting high school sites in the spring to promote the options.
  
- **Sonoma County Office of Education**
  - Course Outlines: The previously distributed course outlines for Automotive Technology, Advanced Automotive Technology, Auto Body, and Advanced Auto Body were approved as submitted by the advisory committee.
  
  - Economic Outlook: The July 2009 preliminary employment trend for Trade, Transportation and Utilities declined .6% or 200 jobs versus the June 2009 revise.<sup>1</sup> Automotive dealers are optimistic about next year and predict pent-up demand could boost sales to as high as 12 million vehicles in 2010.<sup>2</sup> A formula for gauging the efficiency of plug-in hybrids is being developed by the EPA.<sup>3</sup> “The number of jobs for automotive service technicians and mechanics

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<sup>1</sup> State of California EDD, [www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov). August 21, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> The Kiplinger Letter, Vol. 86, No. 34, Pg. 2. [www.kiplingerbiz.com](http://www.kiplingerbiz.com). August 21, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, Pg. 2. [www.kiplingerbiz.com](http://www.kiplingerbiz.com). August 21, 2009.

is projected to grow faster than average for all occupations over the next decade.”<sup>4</sup> This increase represents 110,000 new jobs over the next decade. Industry members stated that while the industry is slow now, they agreed on the future projections. There is a tremendous need for computer skills for the industry with the continued focus on electronics in automobiles.

- **Next Meeting Date**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 2010, at noon in Lounibous Service Center, SRJC, Santa Rosa.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

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<sup>4</sup> US Bureau of Labor Statistics. <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin>. August 20, 2009.  
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