

HVAC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

1. Lunch at 11:00 am
2. Started the meeting at 11:18 am
3. Luke Vanderhill motioned to approve minutes of the last meeting and Michael Gilmour seconded it.
4. Student numbers are the lowest they have ever been. The trend appears to be both state and country wide.
 - a. We participated earlier this year in the EFE Expo to help create interest in 8th and 9th graders into the trades.
 - b. KVCC started a Middle College program but HVAC is not included, but hope to be this summer. This will also help recruit students into the HVAC
 - c. Gehry has been talking to schools and counselors and is willing to talk to any interested groups.
 - d. Luke commented that homeschoolers are a growing market and we need to tap into that. Many homeschoolers come to KVCC to finish off their math and science requirements. Homeschoolers also tend to be higher quality students.
 - e. Luke suggest that we contact KAT (Kalamazoo Area Tutors) to promote our HVAC programs.
5. LaJoyce Brooks announced that on May 4th the school will be sponsoring an “Adults in Transition Program” from 6 to 8 pm. It’s object is to help adults transition from one area line of work to another. She will be pushing the trades especially HVAC.
6. Pete Woodruff asked if the “Promise” covers trade skills and LaJoyce said “Yes” and we have a Kalamazoo Promise coach on staff to help us with that.
7. Diane Long commented that people have the miss conception of the trades and we need to change that if we want to attracted more students.
8. Certificate vs. Associate degree was discussed and Gehry said we attract more students with the certificate program. Even though associate degrees are available, it is not specified in our course catalog which we need to change. Also there are only two counselors that understand our program and we try to steer all our students to them.

9. Mike Gilmour would like to see “Shop Teachers” from local high schools be on our advisory board.
10. Both Pete and Luke commented that many of their applicants which are not KVCC HVAC students, do not have the right skills for the job. Most don’t even have the basic skills let along the professional skills.
11. Dwight discussed the results of the ESCO Readiness Test & EPA
 - a. Handed out a printed slide presentation and discussed the various slides.
 - b. 18 students took the ESCO test and nobody failed
 - c. 13 students took the EPA test and 2 failed
 - d. The general consensus is that the EPA test is outdated on the Universal Certification but it is required by the Federal government and students must have their EPA card to work with refrigerant.
12. The issue was brought up, do we want to re-instate internships and apprenticeships. Currently in our program there is no room (credit wise) for internships. Gehry handed out a copy of all the required classes and asked board members to review to see if there is something that can be removed to insert internships. Shaun suggested we remove “Shop Fundamentals”. But this class is critical in filtering out students that don’t have the right skill sets. We will re-address this at the next meeting.
13. Mike commented that students coming out of the KVCC HVAC program think they are ready to be a service tech. which is not true. The line of progression is that they start out as an installer and then work them self’s up to a service tech. position. Both Luke and Pete echoed this by saying that our program trains them to be service techs. But everybody must start in the installation group first to properly understand the complete working HVAC system.
14. The Heat Pump class presentation will be Thursday, April 28th, starting at 7:00 pm in room 5830 in the tech wing. There will 8 students giving presentations and we encourage contractors to sit in on these.
15. As for field trips, there were none this year.
16. Meeting adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

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