

HVAC Advisory Board Meeting
April 16, 2019 - 11:00 – 12:30 pm
TTC, Room 5740

1. Minutes from last meeting
2. Student numbers – retention
3. EPA 608 tests
4. ESCO (Excellence in Service Corporation) HVAC Excellence readiness exam results (electrical, heating and air conditioning). We are taking these right now and will not have the results for a few weeks.
5. Introduced new class last year and it is now part of the certificate program. HVAC 224 Commercial Refrigerant, low temp. Will run 1st time winter of 2020.
6. Articulation with EFE & other Tech centers
7. Internships & Apprenticeships
 - a. year round opportunities
 - b. Are you interested in a different format for potential apprentices?
8. More calls are coming in than we have graduates, including: plumbers, electrical contractors, maintenance organizations, fitness centers, KSS – installers, and mechanical head hunters & unions
9. Ideas to get more students interested in HVAC
10. Heat pump class presentations

When: Tuesday April 23, 2019

Where: TTC room 5820 (end of tech wing)

Time start: 7:00 pm.

HVAC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes on April 16, 2019

1. Lunch at 11:00 am
2. Introductions
3. Gehry asked board members to review the last advisory board meeting minutes.
4. Then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Shawn Wright motioned and Jim Penny seconded that motion.
5. Our student enrollment numbers were better this fall but our attrition is still high, especially during the winter semester. Part of the problem is poor work results in class and poor quality students creating a retention issue. A lot of the students are disorganized. We need reliable people in this business.
6. LaJoyce feels we need to get these students into an apprenticeship program to help the retention numbers.
7. Dan Wood asked if these students understand what's expected of them before they start the program. Gehry said we as instructors have no contact with students before they register for classes. They can speak to counselors and have been pre-tested. We do explain expectations the 1st day of class.
8. It appears students are having a hard time to connect. Joe Plume brought up an interesting observation with his quest to hire techs. If he calls or emails potential candidates he gets no response, but if he texts them they respond. Maybe we should be looking at a different mode of communication on how to recruit students.
9. Students that receive financial aid are limited for aid for the classes that are required, not the electives. We are limited on how many classes we can require. Therefore we have some students that do not take an elective that would be extremely helpful for some of the required classes. Another challenge for students and financial aid is that they are required to be a full time student. This makes it hard to work or for a student to even work part time and take fewer classes (increase passing classes).
10. Dwight discussed the 608 EPA test results. The test booklet has changed from last year's 12 page to this year's 28 page. There are a lot more questions on new rules and laws. The student needs to take refrigerant Level 1 before taking this test. Refrigerant Level 1 is taught in the fall and the test is offered in the winter semester. This year we had 50% of the students pass the Universal Certification test. Also this year we offered this class in the evening which boosted our enrollment.
11. Shawn Wright asked if the student can pass HVAC 125 (EPA Class) without receiving the universal certification. Yes, we average the 4 test scores for their final grade.

12. Joe Plume asked if there is any training on the use of R290 yet. Response was No
13. On the ESCO exam, we don't have the results in yet do to all the snow days.
14. Gehry discussed the new class that will be offered next winter (2020) HVAC 224 covering Low Temp refrigeration systems. This will bump our overall credit hours from 34 to 37.
15. We are still working with EFE and do articulation.
16. Both Luke and Dan commented that homebuilders are showing great interest in tech centers for finding new recruits. Dan feels we need a tech center in Kalamazoo County because other tech center have produced good results for the construction trades. Dan also commented that Labor Laws have consticted the HVAC industry by not allowing them to hire younger recruits.
17. LaJoyce discussed the apprenticeship program and how it could be shape to our needs in the HVAC business.
18. Dan Wood stated that currently there are no State Credentials covering this in the HVAC industry. The contractor is responsible to cover these. We need Industrial Recognized Standards for HVAC. Like The Dept. of Labor Law has standards that are recognized by the state of Michigan.
19. There is a legitimate interest in setting up a separate meeting with local contractors to format an apprenticeship program with a set of rules to fit our needs. Gehry working with LaJoyce will spearhead this.
20. Kevin said at Perrigo they use the Dept. of Labor standards and maintain student retention thru pay scale increases every 1000 hours worked. They also pair up recruits with journeymen people. They currently recruit people out of the Tech center in their community.
21. Dwight talk about the "Heat Pump Class Presentation" next week. There are 10 students participating and he encourages local contractors to be there.
22. Meeting Adjourned at 12:45 pm.