

NCTC Auto Body Advisory Board Meeting (April 19, 2023)

Meeting called to order at 5:42 p.m. 9 members present. Introductions were made as a couple members were new to the board. Present were:

Morgan Rude – current 1st year Auto Body student

Josh Walton – ABBRA Auto Body, Grand Forks

Ira Johnson – Thief River Ford Service Manager

Chuck Hoard – Auto Value

Curtis Zoller – NCTC

Mike Agnew – Agnew Motorsports, Mahnommen

Mike Paulson – Black River Auto Body, Red Lake Falls

Cody Johnson – Trendless LLC, Grand Forks

Kent Wagner – NCTC Auto Body Instructor

Ira had misplaced minutes from last meeting and was rewriting them at the time of the meeting so they weren't read.

Old Business

Program Plans – The Auto Body program continuation was confirmed at the last meeting as some board members were under the impression that 2023-24 could be the last year of the program without improved enrollment. It will continue as a two year program with content as is and Kent will be making necessary modifications in implementing. Curtis stated that emphasis will be placed on improving enrollment by aligning with the auto body industry. He mentioned enrollment throughout all transportation programs throughout Minnesota and North Dakota is down. Example - St. Cloud Auto Body enrollment is less than 11 and Wahpeton, N.D. is 7 for this year. Chuck felt the major emphasis needs to be placed on recruitment of students. All board members agreed there is high demand and pay scale is at an all-time high, but too few students are pursuing it as a career. This should provide an opportunity for improving enrollment if the message can get to high school students.

Carl Perkins Federal Grant funding – Kent has put in for a Prospot I4S welder that would be paid for using this funding. SIM paint sprayer needs to be replaced in the near future as there is no ability to update it.

New Business

Kent and Mike have been working on an Open House/Car Show for May at the TRF campus and would partner with Street Wizards Car Club. This event will be a way to promote the auto body program and improve enrollment in a fun way. Curtis felt it was too short of time frame and said we should plan the event for 2024 but have a booth at the Street Wizards car show in August. Mike said Street Wizards would like some vendors at the show and will bring the suggestion up at the next Street Wizards meeting April 27th. Suggestions were to have a booth with NCTC literature, someone at the booth for

people to visit with and answer questions, hand out free water, and have 1 or 2 students there displaying their cars.

Other suggestions for promoting the auto body program were for NCTC and Street Wizards to partner up by providing cars for senior pictures (Josh) and using the Street Wizards car display during the fair to promote the program (Morgan). Morgan explained how he created a Tik Tok account to document the work he's doing on his car. He has 132 followers and many advisory board members felt we need Morgan or someone with his social media skills to promote the auto body program as his generation relates to events posted on social media. Another way NCTC Auto Body could participate at the car show would be to "sponsor" an award such as "Best Paint" or "Best Restoration". These suggestions will be presented by Mike at the next Street Wizards club meeting and Mike will provide Kent with meeting minutes with Street Wizards recommendations on what role NCTC Auto Body will have at the car show and what types of partnering Street Wizards wants to do with NCTC. Career Expo at the college brought 32 students into the auto body classrooms and 1 new sign-up for this fall. Morgan visited with a number of students about what he's learning and doing as an auto body student.

Kent mentioned that the students needed more lab time to complete their projects. After discussion of what was needed to resolve this, Josh Walton made a motion to add a 2 credit lab course to the Sheet Metal Repair Technician certificate. Lab AUBO 2222 Simulated Auto Body II. Motion was seconded by Mike Paulson. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn made by Chuck, seconded by Ira