

# NORTHLAND

## Mechatronics Advisory Spring 2026 Minutes:

Date: Tuesday May 5, 2026 5-6pm

Meeting Location: ARC in Warroad

Attendees: Jason Heppner, Chris Heppner, Kim Hrubka, ADawn Nelson, Kirsten Michalke, Jeff Wegan, Jackson Harren

Copies to: Jeremy Culleton, Greg Ledo, Jim Johnson

- **Greeting and Introduction – Jackson**
- **Updates on the Current Mechatronics Program & Curriculum**
  - 3 Certificates available that stack toward the Diploma and A.A.S [We have our first 4 students walking in graduation in May!](#)
  - 2+2 with BSU (Applied Engineering and Project Management)
    - Reviewing Engineering Technology [Would require additional lab capabilities and an agreement regarding instructor and lab details.](#)
  - Equipment and new technologies adopted
    - 3D modeling and printing – used for capstone projects
    - Enhanced Sensor Lab Trainer – [Capital project from 2026, will be received this week in Warroad.](#)
    - Collaborative Robot and Modular Assembly System [Received from Pine to Prairie, contains obsolete components that can be upgraded.](#)
  - Summer courses planned for 2026 - Robotics and PLC
    - Reviewing a CAD/3D printing course – [The outline is complete but it is not currently planned for the summer. Consulting with Erin Bulger in EGF.](#)
- **Northland College Updates**
  - Technical Dean hired – ADawn Nelson [welcomed to the advisory board.](#)
  - Mechatronics program being evaluated in TRF – [Jackson will complete first half of summer. Looking to hire an adjunct to assist in TRF.](#)

- PSEO - MFG course piloted this Spring 2026 (current semester)
  - Approved to offer Introduction to Electronics in the Fall 2026
  - Kim and Kirsten will visit Roseau Lake the Woods and Warroad Schools next week to demonstrate Mechatronics projects and promote the PSEO DC Power class.
  - Put together promotional verbiage for the PSEO DC Power class and get ADawn to sign off before promoting to high schools.
  - A homeschool student is also interested in PSEO from the Warroad area.
- **Recommendation for improving and expanding the program**
  - Industry skills and technology being adopted or researched
  - Additional program development for Northland to consider
    - Technologist Lab Skills (materials, structural,,etc)
  - Chris suggested that Northland look into partnering with NDSU and their new Robotics Engineering program, contact provided.
  - Updated that a potential robotics project in Roseau Cty could move forward that may be a good match for students in the program.
  - Marvin STEM Explorer summer program has overlap with CMAE courses taught in our program. Jackson will assess this summer and recommend whether it can be offered as credit from Northland next year. ADawn suggested that we'd need a minimum of 16 students to make it work.
  - Kim suggested developing a robotics club or camp experience for students from area schools without robotics programs, and explore collaboration with FIRST/FTC.
  - Jackson will reach out to Aaron Bulger regarding potential interns or job candidates for drafting (Autodesk Inventor) at Marvin, Heatmor or other partners.
- **Hang your banner in the lab** – 2'x 4' banners displaying industry partners/supporters.
  - ANI and Marvin banners currently displayed.

Jackson mentioned the need to continue to grow enrollment in Warroad. We've had good growth thus far, but continued focus marketing, word of mouth and exposure at local industry is key.