

## Palomar College ACR Technology Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Spring Semester Current Courses:

ACR 101; Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration; Mechanical

ACR 102; Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration; Electrical

ACR 110; Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration; Advanced Air Conditioning

ACR 105; Refrigerant Management and Recovery

Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration program is designed to provide students with the knowledge and hands-on learning skills in the air conditioning and refrigeration industry: applications of theory, principles, and techniques will include system components and their interrelated functions, safety, procedures, tools, and equipment; proper testing and evaluation skills to trouble shoot and perform repairs as required. The program also provides retraining and upgrading of skills for maintenance technicians, including EPA certification.

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### March 15, to March 19, 2021; Via Phone

The Palomar ACR Technology Advisory meeting was held in March this year. Again, following strict government and school regulations and due to the continued Covid-19 restrictions, I elected to have phone conversations with the business and industry members to cover as much of the meeting agenda as possible within the new constraints.

I discussed with each member of the Advisory Board the schedule of classes, that I was the only instructor this semester, and how the students were complying with the facial covering and social distancing mandates. I gave them an update on our hybrid classes this semester, with one class a week being held asynchronously and the other weekly meeting being in our lab following the distancing mandates.

I gave an overview of ACR 110 Advanced Air Conditioning course that was being taught for the first time and some of the topics we were covering; IAQ, Chillers, Residential HVAC Load Calcs, etc.

We discussed that there would be no summer ACR classes offered and that the tentative class schedule for Fall 2021 includes for the first time, ACR 112 our Building Automation, DDC Controls course. I am currently looking for an instructor for this course and I solicited any recommendations from the members.



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With the one *equipment and parts vendor*, we discussed student tool purchases, discounts, and approval to review the job boards in the stores for future employment. They will also contact me directly with any information regarding employment or additional training opportunities when they hear about them so I can pass this information along to students.

We discussed obtaining updated pricing on tools and equipment that is newly state of the art (VRF Systems, Low NOx Furnaces) so I could again submit for possible future Perkins Grants that could help us purchase these units for our lab and integration into the curriculum.

I am also now on the email chain from these vendors notifying me of upcoming training events, tool deals, etc. that I can pass along to students.

With the *contractor vendors* that I spoke with, we discussed ways to better communicate job openings the contractors had or would have in the future. We discussed having the contractor representatives coming into the classes at pre-scheduled times and days to give 30 minute talks on their companies, what they are looking for in an installer or service technician, approximate entry level pay, etc. In exchange, I will steer students to their companies when they have graduated from our basic programs. The contractors were all in agreement that the prospective employees they are looking for have the basics of electrical and mechanical systems but that we work hard to ensure they have this knowledge memorized and they are ready to apply it on the job.

Action Air and Sterling Mechanical have been successful starting students as entry level service techs, installation helpers, and shop helpers and equipment expeditors. They continue educating the students that apply themselves and slowly move them up the pay and responsibility ladder. These contractors are very happy with the caliber of the students they have hired and are eager for more opportunities in May when my current students will be available for positions.

A few contractors again expressed need for basic sheet metal skills and asked if we could integrate that learning into the curriculum. One of the contractors (Jason at Sterling Mechanical) is now scheduled to come into my ACR 110 Advanced AC class and will discuss what sheet metal skills are most needed and will demonstrate these skills. I am working to acquire some sheet metal and sheet metal fittings to allow the students to participate in a lab activity performing some of these tasks themselves.

An email was sent to all attendee's thanking them for their participation and that I would be following up with them in the next semester regarding visits to classrooms to discuss their companies and employment. They will also be looking forward me and my students contacting them for job openings towards the end of May.



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Attendees:

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