

Palomar College ACR Technology Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Spring 2022

Spring Semester Current Courses:

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

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

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.

April 27, to May 31, 2022; Via Phone & Offsite Meetings

The Palomar ACR Technology Advisory meeting was held in May 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 new equipment that has been purchased for training in the ACR 101 Mechanical and ACR 102 Electrical courses. I also talked about the additional electrical training boards that I had completed for students partially due to Covid-19, keeping students working on their own boards and less in teams to keep distance.

We discussed that there would be no summer ACR classes offered and that next semester, Fall 2022, we will be sticking again with our core courses plus offering Advanced Air Conditioning ACR 110. Also discussed were recent successes with the ACR



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105 Refrigerant Handling, EPA Certification course which is substantially online, but with Proctored certification testing the last four weeks of the course. Palomar College certified (11) students with Universal EPA Section 608 Certification. Several students were promised a \$1 an hour increase when the exam was completed and passes, another student was told he could join their company once certified working primarily on chillers and central plants.

I am currently building a demonstration table approximately 12" long to showcase a complete heat pump split system and a conventional furnace with split air conditioning system. Both systems will be refrigerant piped, condensate piped, and completely wired both high voltage and low voltage circuits. The purpose being, as an easy reference for students to see both of these major types of residential installed systems.

This semester I purchased (25) subscriptions to the Interplay HVAC Learning Simulation website for students to access and go through the learning simulations and the "hands-on" virtual reality simulations of diagnosing specific problems on split system and package air conditioning and heat pump systems. It was difficult to dedicate time to training and access to these simulations but the students really enjoyed working with this program.

We were able to have (3) of my contractors come in for brief discussions with students highlighting their respective companies and discussing hiring. I hope to continue and expand this in coming semesters.

Approximately (9) students applied with companies following the Spring 2022 semester as they had completed the three core courses I had recommended they complete prior to interviewing and applying for jobs. Siemens (Lindberg Field Account), Action, Sterling Mechanical, and Oak Island were popular companies this year for applicants, and I am keeping in touch with students as where they landed to start their careers.

An email was sent to all attendees 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 December.

Attendees:

Chair – Barry Valentine
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