

Palomar College ACR Technology Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Spring 2023

Spring Semester Current Courses:

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

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

ACR 103; Advanced Heating Systems

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.

January 1, to April 30, 2023; Via Phone & Offsite Meetings

The Palomar ACR Technology Advisory meeting was held between January and April 2023, I elected to have phone conversations and in person meetings offsite with the business and industry members to cover as much of the meeting agenda as possible.

I discussed with each member of the Advisory Board the schedule of classes, that I was the only instructor this semester, and next semester we would be expanding our schedule and likely bringing on another instructor.

I gave an overview of new equipment that has been purchased for training in the ACR 101 Mechanical and ACR 102 Electrical courses. Additional furnaces, recovery machines, vacuum pumps, micron gauges, electrical and temperature meters. This semester all classes were at capacity which necessitated the additional equipment and tools to allow continuance of small groups when performing lab projects. I was also able to assemble an additional (5) electrical trainer boards for ACR 102 to teach the fundamentals of electrical components and heat pump operation.

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 course, adding morning core courses, plus offering Advanced Air Conditioning ACR 110. Also discussed were



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recent successes with the ACR 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 (14) students with Universal EPA Section 608 Certification.

I invited all companies to visit the Escondido campus to see our new HVAC demonstration table. It is approximately 12' long to showcase a complete heat pump split system, conventional furnace with split air conditioning system, mini split system, and typical electrical circuit breaker panel. All three systems have refrigerant piping, condensate, and are completely wired both high voltage and low voltage circuits. The purpose being, as an easy reference for students to see these major types of residential installed systems.

Next semester I plan to purchase (10) 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 (2) 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.

This Spring 2023 Semester we were able to submit applications to award (16) students with Palomar College ACR Program Certificates of Proficiency. This is awarded to students completing (4) key core courses, some accomplishing this in one semester. Most of these students will be seeking employment when this current semester is complete at the end of May.

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 May.

Attendees/Contacts:

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