

Business Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

<b>PROGRAM COMMITTEE NAME:</b>	Automotive/Diesel Joint with Am Tech Career Academy BLC Meeting		
<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b>	Robert Leuthen		
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	05/05/26	<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	11:30 PM
<b>RECORDER:</b>	Adriana Soto Rodriguez	<b>MEETING PLACE:</b>	Innovation Outpost - Room 114
		<b>PREVIOUS MEETING:</b>	11/7/25

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

List all members of the committee, then place an X in the box left of name if present

	NAME	TITLE	EMPLOYER INFO	PHONE	EMAIL
X	Coby Venhaus	Owner	AutoNation Chevrolet Cadillac		Venhausc@autonation.com
X	Ann Rothkrug	Service manager	Autonation Chevrolet Amarillo	(806)324-6713	RothkrugA@autonation.com
X	Rudy Ibarra	Service Technician	Gene Messer Ford		ribarra@group1auto.com
X	Karyn Pierce	CTE Director	Amarillo ISD	806-326-1961	karyn.pierce@amaisd.org
X	Amanda Head	CTE Coordinator	Amarillo ISD	806-326-1962	amanda.head@amaisd.org
X	Farris Payne	Owner	Bear Automotive	806-671-9899	farris@paynemg.com
X	Trey Hilbert	DC Automotive Instructor	Amarillo ISD	806-326-1968	webb.hilbert@amaisd.org
X	Isaac Bernal	CTE Instructor	Amarillo ISD	806-326-2816	isaac.bernal@amaisd.org
X	Don Wilson		Roberts Truck Center		don.wilson@robertstruck.com
X	Brian Bibiano		Brown Buick GMC	806-420-7696	bbibiano1212@gmail.com
X	Bill Frank	Owner	Top Gun Auto Service & Repair	806-355-8929	wfrank1948@gmail.com

**EX-OFFICIO'S PRESENT**

X	David Hail	Dean of Technical Education	Amarillo College	806-335-4309	dhail36@actx.edu
X	Rob Leuthen	Program Coordinator	Amarillo College	806-335-4374	releuthen@actx.edu
X	Terry Smith	Faculty -Automotive Technology	Amarillo College	806-335-4229	t0512772@actx.edu
X	Adriana Soto Rodriguez	Administrative Assistant	Amarillo College	806-335-4211	a0387635@actx.edu

**AGENDA ITEM**

**ACTION DISCUSSION INFORMATION**

<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	David Hail welcomed the employers and staff. Lunch was provided and attendees ate while the meeting was discussed. Everyone introduced him/herself with their name and title.
<b>AmTech Program Updates</b>	

<p><b>a) Program Numbers for FY 26-27</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total enrollment: 204 students</li> <li>o Auto Basics: 98</li> <li>o Auto Tech I: 68</li> <li>o Auto Tech II: 22</li> <li>o Practicum: 16</li> </ul>
<p><b>b) Car Show Results/Scholarships</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 101 cars participated</li> <li>• \$3,541 raised, with \$2,800 available for scholarships</li> <li>• Plan to award 6–8 scholarships (up to \$500 each)</li> </ul>
<p><b>c) Skills D3 &amp; State Results</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 students qualified for district, 6 advanced to state</li> <li>• District placements: 1st &amp; 3rd (Automobile Services Technology)</li> <li>• State results: AST (9th), MLR (9th &amp; 15th)</li> <li>• One student elected District Officer</li> <li>• Strong industry engagement in judging and event support</li> </ul>
<p><b>d) Student Survey Data</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High satisfaction reported in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Course content relevance</li> <li>o Hands-on learning opportunities</li> <li>o Instructor responsiveness</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Identified improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Increase hands-on shop time for senior-level student</li> <li>• 16/22 students responded</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>e) Budget / Equipment Needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o ASE certification fees</li> <li>o Scanner subscriptions</li> <li>o Instructional materials</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Equipment priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Electrical training boards</li> <li>o Rolling tool carts (improved efficiency and group work)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>f) AISD / AC Alignment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22 AISD dual credit students have completed the AC Automotive Basic Certification</li> <li>• Increased presence from AC Dual Credit Specialist, Javier Herrara, has attributed the number of successful dual credit students.</li> </ul>
<p><b>AC Program Updates</b></p>	
<p><b>a) Budget</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Base program budget: Approximately \$24,000 (shared with Diesel)</li> <li>• Perkins funding available to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Equipment purchases</li> <li>o Program enhancements tied to workforce needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>b) Perkins Updates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Equipment modernization</li> <li>o Inspection and diagnostic tools</li> <li>• Emphasis on compliance and documented instructional outcomes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p><b>c) Student Survey Tool</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amarillo College developing survey tool for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Current students and graduates</li> <li>o Plan to:</li> <li>o Integrate best elements from existing AISD surveys</li> <li>o Share tool with employer partners</li> <li>o Refine before broader rollout</li> </ul> </li> <li>Additional Program Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Badger Bound Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Free tuition for students completing 15 dual credit hours</li> <li>o Demonstrated success (e.g., 22 welding students benefited)</li> <li>o Expanding to additional schools</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Internship moved to Advanced Certificate level for better readiness</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Employer Needs</b></p>	<p><b>Technical Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong demand for technicians with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Diagnostic and troubleshooting skills</li> <li>o Ability to follow structured repair processes</li> <li>o Maintenance competencies prior to specialization</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Documentation &amp; Accountability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Clear, detailed “story writing” for diagnostics and warranty compliance</li> <li>o Accurate documentation to mitigate financial and legal risks</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Tools &amp; Readiness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry-level expectations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Personal investment: \$2,000–\$3,000 in tools</li> <li>o Essential tools: sockets, wrenches, pliers, screwdrivers, torque tools</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Employers/programs support onboarding with starter toolkits and roll carts</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Workforce Readiness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desired traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Strong work ethic</li> <li>o Drug-free workplace compliance</li> <li>o Willingness to learn and collaborate</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Employers emphasized: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Mentorship and gradual skill/tool development</li> <li>o Avoiding excessive financial burden on new technicians</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Hiring &amp; Pipeline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Internships and direct hiring from programs</li> <li>o Collaboration with Amarillo College for candidate referrals</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Open Discussion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlighted success stories of developing non-traditional or initially underprepared students into strong employees</li> <li>• Reinforced importance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Structured training</li> <li>o Mentorship</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Operational considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Implement no-phone policies to improve safety and productivity in shop environments</li> <li>o Agreed to continue strengthening AISD–AC–Industry partnerships</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Adjournment**

- Meeting concluded with agreement to:
- o Schedule next joint meeting in early October (first 10 days preferred)
- David Hall expressed his appreciation for:
- o Instructor contributions
- o Industry partner engagement
- o Ongoing collaboration efforts
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 pm.

Chairperson Signature: Robert Leuthen 

Date:

*5/12/26*

Next Meeting: 10-6-26