

Advisory Board / Business and
Leadership Council

Drafting

April 24, 2026

Chairperson: Carrie Hoffman		
Meeting Date: April 24, 2026	Meeting Time: 11:00 am	Meeting Place: Virtual, Teams
Recorder: Penelope Davies		Previous Meeting: December 5, 2025

Members					
P?	Name	Company	Title	Phone	Email
	Mason Rogers	Playa Design	Architect	206-6513	mason@playadesignstudio.com
	Sheila Sims	Sims + Architects	Architect	358-7069	ssims@sims-architects.com
P	David Nowell	Parkhill	Architect		
P	Jon Braudt	Parkhill	Civil Engineering		
	Bryan Rhodes	Rhodes Architecture	Architect	336-7786	raoffice@raoffice.com
	Gentri Zgadzaj	Bluehaven Homes	Lead Designer	806-803-8110	gzgadzaj@bluehavenhomes.com
	John Moya	Sims Parge Moya Architects	Architect	374-2341	jmoya@spmarch.com
	Brain Swartwood	Cactus Feeders			brian.swartwood@cactusfeeders.com
	Jacob Moreno	Altura	Architect	888-947-6066	jacob.moreno@alturaengineering.com
	Jeremy Matthews	Altura	Designer Manager	888-947-6066	jeremy.matthews@alturaengineering.com
	Travis Brown	Brown Consulting Engineers	Engineer	806-354-0141	travis.brown@brownconsultingengineers.com
	Ethan Long	Sage Oil Vac			

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	Hannah Welch	Sage Oil Vac		372-7559	hwelch@sageoilvac.com
	Derlin Campbell	Xcel Energy		806-881-5366	Derlin.W.Campbell@xcelenergy.com
	Aldolfo Garcia	Hi-Plains Civil Engineers		806-353-7233	adolfog@hpcetx.com
P	Chris Godinez	Hi-Plains Civil Engineers			chrisg@hpcetx.com
	Ryan Gromek	AISD -AHS	Teacher	806-326-2000	Ryan.Gromek@amaisd.org
	Eric Combs	AISD - AmTech	Teacher	806-326-2200	Eric.Combs@amaisd.org
	Chris Thompson	Valero	Design Supervisor		chris.thompson@valero.com
	Jenifer Payne	Excel Machinery	Owner		jpayne@excelmach.com
	Joshua Milford	City of Amarillo/AC Adjunct	Drafter		jamilford21@actx.edu
	Richard Evers	Xcel Energy / AC Adjunct	Drafter		r0077851@actx.edu
P	Steve Duniven	Midwest Machines	Steve Duniven		steve@midwestmachinellc.com
P	Zach Jarrett	Midwest Machines	Zach Jarrett		zach@midwestmachinellc.com
P	Jordan Dugan	Caprock Designs	Builder	806-437-1193	jordan@caprockdb.com
P	Denise Lynch	CRL Architects	Architect	806-374-0676	dlynch@crlarchitects.com
P	Amanda Head	AISD			
P	Rudy Elizondo	Excel Machinery			
Others Present					
P?	Name	Company	Title	Phone	Email

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P	Carrie Hoffman	Amarillo College	Drafting Coordinator - Instructor	806-371-5091	C0287815@actx.edu
P	Edie Carter	Amarillo College	Executive Dean of STEM & Academic Success	806-371-5335	elcarter@actx.edu
P	David Hall	Amarillo College	Dean Technology Education Industry Programs	806-335-4309	dhall36@actx.edu
P	Imelda Saavedra	Amarillo College	Coordinator External Partners, HSI STEM Grant	806-345-5683	Imelda.saavedra@actx.edu
	Taya Mamba	Amarillo College	Director, Perkins	806-371-5073	tlmamba@actx.edu
P	Jordan Ramos	Amarillo College	Perkins Community Liaison, Perkins Grant	806-371-5166	J0448390@actx.edu
	Jacqui Jones	Amarillo College	Executive Director of Grant Administration & Compliance	806-371-5203	J0544603@actx.edu
P	Penelope Davies	Amarillo College	Department Chair	806-371-5901	
P	Gregory Thompson	AC East Campus Advisor			

Agenda

Agenda Item	Action, Discussion, Information	Responsibility
Call to Order: Chair, Carrie Hoffman	Approve minutes	Motion: David Nowell
	Discussion	Second: Chris Godinez

Minutes	
Key Discussion Points	Discussion
Executive Dean of STEM & Academic Success	Edie Carter welcomed each of the members. She reported that we are at the end of the \$5 million HSI STEM Grant which will conclude at the end of September, 2026. She stressed the importance of hearing the needs of each of our community partners. The collaborative endeavor created by participating in our Drafting BLC is invaluable to Amarillo College and our Drafting Program. Hearing the needs of our community partners in Drafting allows our students to be ready to go to work on the first day to help their business thrive.
Drafting News	Carrie Hoffman reviewed the following updates: 1. We have 8 students graduating with the AAS in Drafting and several of our students are receiving their Drafting Technician Certificate. 2. This fall our Drafting Program will be partnering with our Construction Technology from East Campus as a Specialization available for our Construction majors. We are grateful to East Campus and the leadership in Construction Technology to help our students have the opportunity to understand the Construction world and the drafting world of design. David Hall offered his excitement with the collaborative endeavor between East Campus and Drafting. 3. Online options • For DFTG 1309 Basic CAD, we will be offering an online option for Summer 2026, and online and in-person options for Fall 2026. Currently we only offer in-person.

	• For DFTG 1325, Technical Reading and Sketching, we will only be offering it online in Fall 2026 • It is hoped that this online approach will help our drafting program to grow. 4. Badger Bound will be a program offered this fall, 2026, to all students who complete 15 Dual Credit Hours with AC while in high school. These students will be eligible to take 45 credit hours towards an AS, an AAS, and/or a Certificate with their tuition, fees and books free at Amarillo College.
Member News	Carrie Hoffman asked the members to consider the following: 1. How is business? 2. What new changes are you seeing in Drafting? 3. Do you use or do you think it is important for our students to have courses in Microstation? 4. How can we better align with your company's needs? 5. What skills do your entry-level new hires need? Carrie reflected on the skills being covered in the drafting program: Basic CAD with 2-D and 3-D, Revit, Microstation, Sketchup, Lumion, Pipe Drafting, Electrical and Electronics Drafting. It was noted that Parkhill, Altura, TxDot, and the City of Amarillo use Microstation. David Nowell with Parkhill stressed the importance of not letting the software handcuff the program. Allow the students to see what the software will allow them to do. David is currently serving as a mentor for the Final Project students who have been assigned a project to design a K-6 educational structure. David emphasized the importance of the students to process those soft skills where they can look you in the eyes and carry on a conversation about each project. Communication is critical, both oral and written.

	Rudy Elizundo with Excel Machinery stressed the importance of 2-D and 3-D Auto CAD as well as Inventor. These are the software they use. Zach Jarrett with Midwest Machine stated that they use SolidWorks and Auto CAD. The community partners emphasized the importance of our students embracing the future with an understanding of how to place the design on paper. Spreadsheets become invaluable. It is important to teach our students to look for the design. Chris Godinez from Hi-Plains Civil Engineers stressed the importance of our students knowing the basics. A basic foundation will provide our students with the ability to adapt and grow. Jordan Dugan with Caprock Design stressed the importance of our students being exposed to and using Chief Architect. He stated that understanding the basics was very important for our drafting students. Amanda Head with the Career and Technical portion of AISD stated that they were working on the development of a Dual Credit offering with Mr. Combs at AmTech. There is still concern about the data privacy statement that must be agreed to before some software may be used. Carrie stressed the interest in Amarillo College establishing Drafting Dual Credit offerings with AmTech. Imelda Saavaladra, Amarillo College's Coordinator of External Partners with the HSI STEM Grant, encouraged the community partners to consider some type of work-based learning opportunity or summer internship for our students. The experience gained by this hands-on approach has proven to be invaluable for our students and for the partnering companies. In some cases, the grant does have funds to help our student with 19 hours of work per week. Imelda welcomed a time where she might visit with each company concerning what might be beneficial for their company. Many of the members recommended the following for future drafters entering the workforce: • Willingness to continue to learn • Excitement for drafting • Passion for drafting as well as the company • Adaptiveness and flexibility • Willingness to ask questions
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	• Willingness to listen • Professional conduct at all times while on the job • Communication skills, verbal and written • Attendance, coming to work each day • Performance, providing the best drafting skills possible and willingness to always improve • Willingness and commitment to helping the company be as successful as possible Each member felt that the program Chief Architect provided our students with key drafting skills. The members also encourage our students to have experience with a 3-D scanner if possible.
New Business:	Recruiting information – Carrie has been attending career fairs to help recruit students. Handshake – Amarillo College has joined Handshake. Employers can create a profile to recruit employers. Carrie has a Job posting board for students to review job opportunities available in our community.
Curriculum Decisions:	None
Other:	Future Trends - Twin Motion – Rendering software that works with Revit Industrial –3d scanning and point clouds and tools to integrate into drafting software. Flying drones for video capture
	Chief Architect: the members were very supportive of the program Chief Architect and encourage the use of this program so that our students could develop skills that this program provides. Microstation software was supported by our community partners as an important skill to obtain. It is used more on the civil engineering side. Will create a focus group to better align our curriculum

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	David – Chief Architect has a lot of fun tools. From a residential design standpoint, it is quick and user friendly. Great for smaller jobs. Revit is mostly used in the commercial industry and becomes a tool after construction for the owner.
Adjourn:	The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

Chairperson signature (or designee):

Date: 4-24-2026

Carrie Hoffman

Next Meeting: To be determined at a future date in October and/or November.