Advisory Board / Business Leadership Council

Engineering/Physics

March 6, 2026

Person Presiding: Penelope Davies		
Meeting Date: March 6, 2026	Meeting Time: 11:30AM	Meeting Place: Engineering 104
Recorder: Penelope Davies		Previous Meeting: May 2, 2025

Members

P?	Name	Company	Title	Phone	Email
P	Cory Acton	Sage Oil Vac	Lead Design Engineer	512-393-9854	cacton@sageoilvac.com
P	Dr. Carl Beard	Pantex/LATA	Division Leader Production Operations Pantex; Robin Beard President/CEO LATA	806-223-6636	Cbeard67@yahoo.com
	Jonathan Hartman	Burns & McDonnell	Sectional Manager (Electrical)	Email, please	jlhartman@burnsmcd.com
P	Jason Draper	Burns & McDonnell	Jason Draper - Project Manager (Structural) , Jonathan Hartman - Section Manager (Electrical)	806-414-6573	jdraper@burnsmcd.com
P	Vincente Gill	Shiver Megert & Associates	Electrical Engineer	806-677-4669	vince@smaae.com
P	Alan Harder	City of Amarillo	Alan Harder, Public Works Director	806-440-4648	alan.harder@amarillo.gov
P	Michael Padilla	City of Amarillo	Assistant Public Works Director		michael.padilla@amarillo.gov
P	Ryan Huseman	Forte Structural Engineering	Structural Engineer	806-352-0484	ryan@fortestructural.com

Advisory Board / Business Leadership Council

Engineering/Physics

March 6, 2026

P	James McCarty	Bell	Manager Liaison Engineering	806-282-2643	jmccarty@bellflight.com
P	Rodolfo Mireles	Amarillo Testing & Engineering	Civil Engineer	(806)223-5775	rmireles@amarillotesting.com
P	Kevin Mitchell	Pantex-retired	Industrial Engineering (Manufacturing and Facilities)	(806)681-6194	klmitchell5861@outlook.com
	David Ford	The Dow Chemical Company (retired)	Control Systems Engineer/Project Manager/Six Sigma Black Belt	361-935-6261	david.ford.home@icloud.com
P	Shannon Schneider	Square Engineering LLC	Owner/ Director/Professional Structural Engineer	806-410-8369	shannon@sq-eng.com
P	Nathan Fox for Carlye Worsham	Xcel Energy	Nathan Fox: Electrical Engineer, Carlye Worsham:	806-316-3551	Carlye.E.Worsham@xcelenergy.com
P	Diana Ramirez	Phillips 66	Engineer	806.275.2016	Diana.Ramirez@p66.com
	Joseph Huseman	Flex Engineers	Owner, Engineer	806-231-4943	joseph.huseman@flex-engineers.com
	Corky Neukam	Parkhill	Civil Engineer, Projects	806-376-2600	cneukam@parkhill.com
	Jacob Moreno	Altura	Co-Owner, Architect	888-947-6066	jacob.moreno@alturaengineering.com

Advisory Board / Business Leadership Council

Engineering/Physics

March 6, 2026

	Travis Brown	Brown Consulting Engineers	Engineer	806-354-0141	travis.brown@brownconsultingengineers.com
	Taya Mamba	Amarillo College	Director, Perkins		
	Ryan Francis	Amarillo College	Coordinator Perkins Activities, Perkins Grant	806-371-5472	
	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

0Others Present

P?	Name	Company	Title	Phone	Email
P	Linda Dominguez	Amarillo College	Manager, Corporate Relations, AC Foundation	806-371-5385	IL0213708@actx.edu
P	Holly Hofmann	Amarillo College	Director of HSI STEM Grant	806-371-5974	hlhofmann@actx.edu
P	Vanessa Miles	Amarillo College	Assistant Professor of Engineering/Math	806-345-5642	vwmiles21@actx.edu
P	Dr. Van Herd	Amarillo College	Assistant Professor of Engineering/Physics	806-371-5939	vaherd@actx.edu
P	Andy Pimentel	Amarillo College	Instructor of Engineering/Math	806-345-5628	a0453787@actx.edu
P	Dr. Richard Hobbs	Amarillo College	Department Chair of Physical Sciences	806-371-5333	rdhobbs@actx.edu

Advisory Board / Business Leadership Council

Engineering/Physics

March 6, 2026

P	Dr. Van Domelen	Amarillo College	Associate Professor of Physics	806-371-5256	d0540371@actx.edu
	Imelda Saavedra	Amarillo College	Coordinator, External Partners HSI STEM Grant	806-345-5683	imelda.saavedra@actx.edu
P	Penelope Davies	Amarillo College	Department Chair of Math, Engineering, Drafting & Data Science	806-371-5901	padavies@actx.edu

Agenda

Agenda Item	Action, Discussion, Information	Responsibility
Call to Order: Penelope Davies	Approve minutes	Motion: Dr. Hobbs
	Discussion	Second: Dr. Herd

Minutes	
Key Discussion Points	Discussion
	Our Community Partners were welcomed and given a copy of the curriculum covered in each of our Engineering courses as required by the THECB's ACGM.

Advisory Board / Business Leadership Council	Engineering/Physics	March 6, 2026

The following representatives from Amarillo College introduced themselves and shared their responsibilities:

Vanessa Mies, Assistant Professor of Engineering/Math, teaching Introduction to Engineering and Engineering Graphics. In the summer and fall, she will be offering an online Electrical Circuits I.

Dr. Herd, Assistant Professor of Engineering/Physics, teaching Dynamics, College Physics, and other Physics classes. Dr. Herd shared that he presents the theory, the practice as well as hands-on opportunities for the students during their labs.

Andy Pimentel, Instructor of Engineering/Math, teaching Introduction to Engineering, Statics, and Programming for Engineers.

Dr. Van Domelen, Associate Professor of Physics, teaching General Physics.

Dr. Hobbs, Department Chair of Physical Sciences and Professor of Geology.

Holly Hofmann, Director of the HSI STEM Grant.

Linda Dominques, Manager, Corporate Relations, AC Foundation.

Our Community Partners were asked to consider the following and address those areas that affected their companies the most:

- What are the needs of your Engineering Firm?
- What changes in the Engineering Field are you seeing?
- What durable skills are needed for your future Engineering employees?
- Are you hiring?
- Do you have summer internships?
- What are the future trends in Engineering/Physics?
- How are you using AI in your company and/or in your industry?

Dr. Beard, Pantex, LATA: There is a need for people: Civil, Environmental, Electrical Engineers. They are hiring and they do offer summer internships. AI is used especially to focus on trends in engineering productivity. Emerging trends is to hire non-degree employees and structure a program to pursue future management positions while at the same time to set up programs for a pathway to obtain an Engineering Associate and Bachelor's degree with AC, WT and A&M University using flex time for the

	employees to obtain their higher degrees. This will allow the company to train their employees in a manner that will be most beneficial to the company. **Vincente Gill, Shiver Megert & Associates**: Stated that many of their Engineer's had difficulty finding a place that would allow for their 8-hours PE online exam. We reported that AC does have a testing center and we would inquire as to the availability of allowing Engineers in our community to take their PE exam in AC's testing center. It is important for our drafting students to know Revit and be able to work well with the engineers and the architects as a team. **Alan Harder, City of Amarillo**: The City of Amarillo is looking for more well-rounded engineers. The focus is on Civil Engineers, and more consultant engineers, who can provide organizational skills to work through a project. Communication skills, both written and oral, are extremely important. The city is using AI and are at the beginning phases of how AI can help the City with its projects. **Michael Padilla, City of Amarillo**: The city works with all levels of engineers. He works directly with traffic engineers and emphasized the importance of durable skills. **Ryan Huseman, Forte Structural Engineering**: Ryan stressed the importance of professionalism for our students. He noted that at the recent Career & Transfer Fair many of our students did not have a paper resume to share with the companies. The students were not dressed professionally. They had attended the Career & Transfer Fair at WTAMU and the students were dressed very professionally and all had paper resume to share with the companies. Ryan also stressed the importance that AI not replace the student's durable skills, especially the importance of critical thinking. It is important for our future engineers to be able to determine if recommendations from AI were reasonable. Dr. Van Domelen and Vanessa Miles indicated that these skills would be addressed. **James McCarty, Bell:** James stressed the military importance of Bell. The company works will Mechanical Engineers and all types of engineers. He recommended our engineering students participate in mock interviews as they approached companies for potential internships and employment. He also stressed the importance of AI not replacing the students critical thinking skills, written and oral skills. Bell does work with TTU in seeking and supporting their engineering students. **Kevin Mitchell, Pantex, retired**: Mr. Mitchell stated that they are writing Student Newsletters as a means of providing information to the students and to engineering firms to develop a method to open communication lines between the two. Mr.

	Mitchell asked about our relationship with the ISD's in the Texas Panhandle. We reviewed the AC Badger Bound Scholarship Program. We stressed that this program would be available to all students in the ISD's located in the 26 counties in the Texas Panhandle with a partnership with Clarendon Community College and Frank Phillips College. With 15 dual credit hours completed by a student with AC, the student would be eligible for 45 credit hours to achieve their associates degree to transfer to a 4-year university or to acquire a certificate to obtain a great job. A handout describing AC Badger Bound was in the packet for each of our community partners. **Shannon Schneider, Square Engineering, LLC**: Shannon stressed the importance of instilling in our engineering students the importance of a strong work ethics, professional dress, professional language in dealing with the company's clients, and a willingness to continue to learn. It would be difficult to offer a summer internship with her company; however, Shannon would be very interested in having our engineering student shadow her during the day. Vanessa suggested that she might shadow Shannon first to experience what the students would be encountering during a day of shadowing an engineer. Shannon welcomed Vanessa's participation. Shannon does use AI to help develop contracts. Shannon did stress the importance of our students to be able to think critically with what AI might generate. **Nathan Fox, Xcel Energy**: Nathan reported that they are working on several Capital Projects. There is a need for Mechanical Engineers. The engineering students should have basic knowledge of generators, controls. They are hiring. They do not have summer internships. Their internship applications appear in December and May. AI should be used with the analysis of whether the recommendation from AI is reasonable. **Diana Ramirez, Phillips 66**: Diana emphasized the importance of our engineering students to reach out to companies with a hunger to learn, to be a part of the company and to be willing to get their hands dirty with the projects of the company. A willingness to learn and become a part of a company can open doors for our students and their future careers. Phillips 66 hires Mechanical, Environmental, Electrical, and Chemical Engineers. Diana stressed the importance of our students to know about online resources and an understanding of the basics of how things work. She felt our drafting students should be very knowledgeable with Auto CAD so that the drafters can design the projects developed by the engineers. The skills that Diana recommended for our students were: adaptability, ability to work under pressure, work on teams, leadership skills, communication skills, willingness to work nights and long hours, and having the skill to use appropriate judgement when working on a project. Diana stressed the importance that AI not replace the critical thinking skills of our engineering students. Phillips 66 is hiring and is working with many technical hires.

Advisory Board / Business Leadership Council	Engineering/Physics	March 6, 2026

Rodolfo Mireles, Amarillo Testing & Engineering: Rodolfo indicated that they were interested in an AC Internship. He stressed the importance of our students to be able to speak with their clients possessing clear written and oral communications skills. They do not use AI. Engineering students should be able to think critically and complete much of the analysis by hand. Calculations by hand provide the engineer with a greater understanding of the project.

Jason Draper, Burns & McDonnell: His company is hiring. They are also interested in a paid Internship. He recommended our students possess technical skills, as well as a knowledge and mastery of the basics. They work with Structural Engineers. AI can be beneficial and can be daunting without an understanding of the basics of engineering and the ability to think critically. Our engineering students need to be comfortable with productivity, direct design of projects and the use of judgement as decisions are required to be made. Thought processes are important as a project progresses. What do we need to know to successfully complete this project.

Cory Acton, Sage Oil Vac: Cory indicated that the company is growing and has doubled in size. They work with Mechanical Engineers and Designers. Currently they are not working with Electrical Engineers. Our students need to have the following skills: attention to detail, responsibility, a willingness to hit the ground running, driven by thought, an understanding of the basic skills and an understanding of what is involved in a project. AI can be useful if accompanied by a critical analysis of the recommendations. Our students need to be willing to ask the difficult questions.

The community partners requested that a follow-up be presented to this committee of how we will be addressing the concerns that were expressed. It was agreed that our community partners would be apprised as to how their concerns are being addressed for our engineering students at AC.

The next meeting will be a Virtual Meeting on Friday, June 5, 2026, from 12 noon – 1 pm

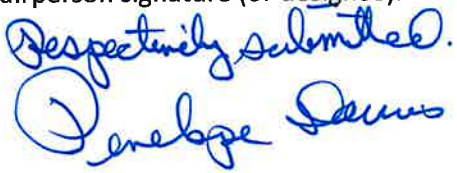
Our community partners were thanked for their openness and excellent recommendations to better serve our engineering students. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Advisory Board / Business Leadership Council

Engineering/Physics

March 6, 2026

Chairperson signature (or designee):



Date: 3-6-2026