

# AUTO Advisory Committee Meeting

April 3, 2025 / 5:30 p.m.

**Present:** Stu Behrman, William Christian, Zack Eret, Nick Faoro, Rob Faoro, Anthony Hernandez, Agne Juskaite, Matt Krogh, Cathy Mayer, John Melisi, Bette Osborne, Mike Shannon, Ira Siegel, Steve Tyrolt, Dave Viar, LoShay Willis, Allan Wolski, Nick Youngblood

Topic	Discussion
<b>Meeting Called to Order</b>	5:30 p.m.
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ira welcomes everyone to our Spring 2025 Advisory Meeting and begins with Dr. LoShay Willis and introductions around the room.</li><li>• Ira takes a moment to congratulate Steve Tyrolt for being awarded as Moraine Valley Community College's Adjunct Professor of the Year. Steve Tyrolt thanks everyone at the college for their support.</li></ul>
<b>Review and Approval of Spring 2023 Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ira asks everyone if they've had the chance to review the Fall 2024 Advisory Minutes, and if there are any questions, corrections, or additions, etc. There were none. William Christian motions to accept the meeting minutes; Matt Krogh seconds the motion.</li></ul>
<b>Program Review / ASE Education Foundation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Both of our auto programs have been accredited by the ASE Education Foundation through December 2028. We will have an internal compliance review at the 2.5-year mark of our 5-year accreditation. Ira will be reaching out to advisory committee members for their help.</li></ul>
<b>Program Review / Manufacturer Programs / Mopar CAP, Nissan, and Mercedes-Benz</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mopar CAP has a separate advisory committee, and that program has its own accreditation with ASE.</li><li>• Our Nissan and Mercedes Benz programs fall under our general auto program.</li><li>• Since 2019, we've had nine graduates in the Nissan program with five of those graduates working at Nissan dealerships. We currently have four students in the program with one student at Zeigler Nissan of Orland Park and another student at 94 Nissan of South Holland.</li></ul>

<p><b>Program Review / Manufacturer Programs / Mopar CAP, Nissan, and Mercedes-Benz, con't.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have 2 Infiniti vehicles and 12 Nissan in our fleet, with 3 being Nissan electric Leafs that were provided by Nissan.</li> <li>• Earlier this year we received a donation of a 2022 Infiniti QX60 and a 2022 Nissan Pathfinder; both vehicles had instrumentation in Russian, but a group of students learned how to change the buttons to English. The vehicles also had to be taken out of shipping mode. They are fully loaded with a lot of useful technology for our classes.</li> <li>• Allan Wolski would like to set up some meetings with Ira to visit Nissan dealerships.</li> <li>• Mercedes Benz of Orland Park has two of our graduates who completed all their training. Ira has one student who transferred from out of state and completed several certifications but is currently working at a Ford dealership. Ira reached out to several MB dealerships to get the student a job, including an independent shop BenzTek, but the student hasn't had any luck just yet. Ira would like to see some representatives from MB dealerships at future advisory meetings.</li> <li>• Students have been leaving the industry to work other jobs in different industries and Ira says that is due to low pay and the lack of mentoring in the auto industry. He notes he has a student who took a job at Midway airport pushing wheelchairs for \$19/hr without needing to buy tools or pay for tuition. He talked to a service manager who said that pay was just bumped up at their dealership to \$18/hr.</li> <li>• Ira expresses his concern over the lack of mentoring in the industry, saying there is a need to guide students instead of having them sit at the lube rack only to lose interest and move to a different industry. Discussion ensues.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Spring 2025 Semester Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are offering 30 sections for the spring 2025 semester, including 1 fully online service advisor course, and that is 2 more sections than spring 2024, and 3 more sections than we ordered last fall.</li> <li>• We have 33 new incoming first-year students this semester: 1 more than last spring and 7 less than what we started last fall.</li> <li>• Our seat count is 242: 39 more than last spring and 25 more than last fall. Ira says our retention is improving.</li> </ul>

<b>Spring 2025 Semester Update / EV Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We were awarded \$525k as part of the Rev Up EV Grant designed to develop and expand an EV program at Moraine Valley.</li> <li>• Since the fall advisory meeting we have purchased a 2024 Toyota BZ4X, 2025 Chevy Blazer EV, 2 large Snap-on tool storage units, 2 mobile computer carts, tools, and diagnostic equipment.</li> <li>• We recently received a shipment of a 2024 Hyundai Ioniq 5 rear drive motor assembly.</li> </ul>
<b>Spring 2025 Semester Update / EV Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing the Rev Up grant, Ira says we were awarded an additional \$313k of funding in the third round of the grant, totaling over \$800k. The contract for round three has been signed with ICCB. We plan to use funding to upgrade 2 charging stations in the automotive parking lot.</li> <li>• The Electric Vehicle Service and Repair course (AUT 248) has been approved for credit, and there will now be a certificate available for 28 credit hours.</li> <li>• In addition to EV updates to our program, we updated the amount of credit hours from 62 to 63 for an associate's degree. The change came from switching out a math requirement to credit from a business course that is 3 credit hours. Students can now take the Electric Vehicle and Repair course as part of an elective towards receiving their associate's degree in automotive technology.</li> </ul>
<b>Spring 2025 Semester Update Cont.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ira displays the Moraine Valley Automotive website and demonstrates the new section 'Can I Earn College Credit for My Existing Certifications and Noncredit Training?'</li> <li>• We now offer credit for some of our courses to anyone who has ASE certifications. The list of courses can be found on our website, in addition to a form that can be filled out with a fee of \$25 per course. This is beneficial for anyone looking to get an associate's degree. Ira also explains that someone can use this opportunity to get their bachelor's degree at SIU at their satellite campus while continuing to work at a shop.</li> </ul>
<b>Program Review / Update Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ira displays and reviews the options for update training opportunities coming up that were also listed on the meeting agenda.</li> <li>• To teach, instructors need to be ASE certified, but they also need 20 hours of approved update training per year.</li> </ul>

<b>Program Review / Dual Credit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have 6 high schools that offer dual credit for our AUT 112 introduction class: Andrew, Argo, Richards, Shepard, Thornridge, and Tinley Park high schools. All those instructors are ASE certified and have all the necessary tools and equipment.</li> <li>• Additionally, 4 high schools offer dual credit for our AUT 121 brakes class: Andrew, Argo, Richards and Shepard high schools. These schools have on-car brake lathes and all the equipment that we would require.</li> <li>• Stu Behrman asks if students take the ASE test for the dual credit brakes class. Ira responds saying that we have tried to implement it, but the logistics were not able to be sorted out. Ira would like to pay for student testing through his budget but hasn't been able to make that happen.</li> </ul>
<b>Program Review / Marketing, Recruiting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We participated in the college's Open House event in the spring and fall, and the Trades Fair that was held in November 2024.</li> <li>• We hosted our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual High School Automotive Skills Competition on February 24. We had 7 high schools, opening it up to 8 students per high school for a total of 50 students from Andrew, Argo, Oak Lawn, Reavis, Richards, Shepherd and Stagg. Argo took first place, Stagg was second, and Richards came in third.</li> <li>• Rob and Ira will be participating in the college's annual STEM Expo on Friday April 25. This big event brings in junior high students to explore different programs within the college. Rob and Ira will be showing 2 groups of students how to build horn circuits in the classroom and in the lab.</li> <li>• Our website is a great informational tool for high schools, or anyone interested in the program. It features a 20-minute video on our automotive program.</li> </ul>
<b>Program Review / Labor Market-Opportunities for our Students and Graduates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The US Bureau of Labor and Statistics reports there have been 794,600 jobs nationwide. The outlook for growth from 2023-2033 has a 3% increase. Across the nation, the average pay is \$48,000 per year. That average will be higher in metropolitan areas.</li> <li>• One employer at the meeting, Nick Youngblood of Happy Hyundai, had no need for workers because he is retaining techs at his dealership.</li> </ul>



***Moraine Valley Community College***