
MEETING MINUTUES- SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

Roll Call-Meeting Called to Order at 9:03 am

IAC Members: Nancy McCormick, Milton Stewart, Edward Estipona, Robert Chisel, Eric Brown

IAC College Representatives: Dr. Natalie Brown, Dr. Jinger Doe, Arkaitz Aldecoaotalora, Lisha Allison

Public Members: Melissa Olsen, Kiah Beverly, Ty Hagar, Estela Gutierrez, Mike Peyerl, Dr. Jeffrey Alexander, Ayodele Akinola, Kim Harrell, Kylie Rowe, Joseph Coleman, Ygnacio Vazquez-Guzman, Laure'l Santos, Kelly Oswald, Erik Gonzalez

Quorum was established.

Public Comment

None

Committee Approvals

May 16, 2024 minutes - Robert Chisel made motion, Nancy McCormick was the second, all present members voted in favor.

Vote to Remove Seng-Dao Yang Keo – Due to Seng-Dao's departure from the Washoe County School District and her unavailability moving forward, Robert Chisel made a motion, seconded by Milt Stewart, to remove her from the committee. All present members voted in favor of the removal, allowing us to engage with the new Deputy Superintendent of the Washoe County School District to join the committee.

President's Updates

Dr. Karin Hilgersom was unable to attend the meeting due to her participation in a Department of Energy Hearing. In her absence, Dr. Jeffery Alexander delivered the following update on her behalf.

August was an exciting month at TMCC, with the return of teaching faculty and our annual professional development day. This year's theme, Pride and Belonging, highlights that when students succeed, we are proud of them, and they are proud of themselves. Every department is focused on creating a welcoming culture that celebrates students' unique perspectives and experiences.

Last week, we welcomed over 11,000 students, a 12% increase in enrollment, with 6,152 full-time equivalent students. We saw significant growth in underrepresented groups, including a 17% rise in Hispanic students and 13% in American Indian students. Our Veteran population is also up, with 454 Veterans, Guard Members, Dependents, and Active-Duty military supported by the newly remodeled Veterans Resource Center.

Belonging starts at the TMCC Welcome Center, a one-stop hub for students to apply, register, and complete orientation. Advising appointments have increased 58% since July, which we believe is improving student retention. Counselors also play a key role, and over the summer, they earned ProjectConnect and MBTI certifications, with their programming reaching 3,700 people.

We're also building Pride in TMCC. On Tuesday, September 17, we'll host our first TMCC Spirit Day, starting at 10:30 AM, with fun activities and a free lunch for students and employees.

Constituent Updates

Assistant Vice Chancellor of Workforce Development and Community Colleges (NSHE) – Dr. Natalie Brown

No updates for this meeting.

Classified Council – Arkaitz Aldecoaotalora

Classified Council has had an exciting start. They held a bake sale on Tuesday, raising \$435. In October, they will host the Halloween Decorating Contest, open to departments or individuals who wish to decorate their offices or doors. The contest will take place on October 30th. Their final fundraising event of the year will be the Holiday Party on December 9th, where they will host a turkey and ham raffle. Proceeds will go toward funding their annual symposium in July for all Classified staff at TMCC.

On the NSHE side, as a representative for TMCC at the Board of Regents, a statement was presented to introduce the new Classified Council board to the Regents and the Chancellor. The statement highlighted how Classified staff across NSHE institutions unite to achieve a shared goal of advancing staff development and success within the system.

Student Government Association – Lisha Allison

SGA had an excellent Welcome Week this year. They gave out a variety of free treats, including boba from Num Num Boba, popsicles, and snacks at all four campuses. The turnout was so great that they had to cut the event short on the first Monday due to the high level of participation, which is fantastic, especially with enrollment up.

They also hosted some exciting events. On September 16th, they held the Latinx Sip and Paint to celebrate Latinx Heritage Month. Spirit Day followed on September 17th, and it had the most student participation and interaction seen in recent times within the SGA. It was really exciting to witness such strong engagement, and they are optimistic that their outreach efforts are making a difference.

Looking ahead, they have some great events coming up, including Pastries with the Presidents on October 1st from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., and a blood drive happening on the same day.

TMCC has kicked off the academic year in an incredible way, and there is hope that this momentum continues throughout the year. Thank you.

Faculty Senate – Dr. Jinger Doe

No updates for this meeting.

Presentations and Discussions

Manufacturing Program at TMCC – Laure'I Santos & Kelly Oswald

Below are highlights from the presentation. Please see the attached presentation for more information.

- Program began back in 2012, and it's been running strong for 12 years now. It has become a national initiative, and as we head into 2024, they will be introducing new equipment, reflecting the programs continued progress.
- The Program has seen a shift to newer machines. Many of the instructors used to work with older equipment, like hammers and tools, but now they are training students to use computers and automated systems.
- The Program offers NC3 National Certifications, which enable students to gain industry-recognized qualifications before they even leave the program.
- The program is partnering with industry more and more, offering apprenticeships where students can gain hands-on experience, both here and in real-world job settings.
- The apprentices typically start at around \$20 an hour. After completing their apprenticeship, their pay tends to increase fairly quickly, reflecting the valuable skills and experience they've gained.
- The program prepares students not only for jobs but also to develop real-world skills.
- They are working on a new skill certificate in quality control, which will be housed in our quality control lab.

Welding Program at TMCC – Pamela Flynn & Joseph Coleman

Below are highlights from the presentation. Please see the attached presentation for more information.

- The TMCC welding program serves around 225 students per semester, spanning various ages and experience levels, from high school students to retirees.
- Students range from those pursuing degrees and balancing jobs to hobbyists, highlighting the diversity in the program.
- The team consists of five full-time staff, including four instructors (two of whom are female), with over 75 years of industry experience.
- The program covers critical welding skills, including stick, TIG, wire welding, and oxy-fuel cutting, with an emphasis on hands-on learning and theory.
- Welding is essential across multiple industries, such as construction, aerospace, and power generation, ensuring job opportunities for graduates.
- Students leave the program with American Welding Society (AWS) certifications, enhancing their employability.
- Strong industry partnerships and advisory boards provide valuable feedback to ensure the program remains aligned with workforce needs.

Listening Session

IAC Council Member Take-Aways

Milton Stewart – I have heard about several opportunities to highlight the work being done within the workforce development system, particularly in job placements and employer partnerships. Additionally, the focus on non-traditional employees, like women in welding, and increasing diversity is something we are actively working on. However, I want to share an anecdotal experience that shows we still have room for improvement. Occasionally, job seekers are not being introduced to alternative career paths in fields like welding or manufacturing when meeting with career counselors. In some cases, they are even being discouraged from pursuing these options. As a workforce development committee, we need to be committed to addressing this and ensuring these opportunities are presented to everyone.

Nancy McCormick - I appreciate the emphasis on how each of us has unique networks within the community. Alongside the fantastic marketing efforts Kylie is leading for the college, it is crucial that we all actively promote the outstanding programs and positive developments happening at TMCC. Our role in this forum is to serve as ambassadors for the college, and I encourage everyone to take some time to consider who we can introduce to these initiatives or who might benefit from hearing about them—especially those who may not have encountered this information elsewhere. This is an important takeaway for me.

Todd Thurston - I was truly impressed by the passion exhibited by the instructors who presented today, along with their deep care for their students. It is evident that the skills we discussed, which some may believe are obsolete, are actually vital and will remain so for the foreseeable future. Advances in AI and other technologies will not diminish the importance of these skills.

I continue to be inspired by TMCC's unwavering dedication to the community, as I have witnessed firsthand in my interactions with the college. Additionally, I want to acknowledge Jeff Alexander's commitment to continual improvement and progress as we move forward. This presents a significant opportunity for all of us in the industry to forge partnerships with the community college and the broader community.

Robert Chisel - I believe we need to recognize that everything begins in our high schools and middle schools. Not everyone needs to pursue a four-year college education, yet that is often the message being communicated, particularly within the school district. It is crucial to understand that college is not the right path for everyone, nor should it be viewed as the only option. Careers in the trades and other fields can be incredibly rewarding, and in many cases, they may offer better prospects than traditional professions, such as accounting.

I often encourage students to consider becoming heavy equipment operators or welders rather than pursuing accounting. We must engage with schools to highlight the value of these alternative pathways and emphasize that there are diverse options available to students. Every individual has unique strengths and interests, and it is essential to provide young people with the opportunity to explore what might be best for them.

Eric Brown - I would like to echo many of the previous comments. As I reflect on the networks I engage with, I often find myself visiting potential partners or hosting individuals interested in collaborating with the County. I will add to our discussions the importance of outreach opportunities, placement initiatives, and the capital needs of TMCC. Standing in the facility, it is clear to me the potential for growth and advancement if we had the necessary funding. I believe there are potential funders ready to support us, and I will be actively pursuing conversations on this front, both internally within the County and with our external stakeholders.

Edward Estipona - I believe TMCC serves as a vital gateway to workforce development. Many students come in uncertain about their career paths, and I encourage them to explore their options before making commitments. Unlike students 30 years ago, today's youth are more cautious and want to discover what suits them best. Community college provides an excellent environment for this exploration, whether through certification programs or associate degrees that can lead to bachelor's degrees.

Additionally, we need to change the narrative around community colleges. Traditionally viewed as a lesser option, they should be recognized as a strategic starting point to pursue careers without incurring significant debt. Many lucrative careers do not require a four-year degree, and we must deprogram the longstanding belief that a college education is the only path to success. Lastly, as we hold meetings in various locations, I encourage everyone to document our visits and share them on social media. By showcasing the diverse industries TMCC serves, we can enhance our community engagement and promote the valuable opportunities available here.

New Business

None at this meeting.

Public Comment

Jason Klonicke, Technical Sciences Project Director at TMCC. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today; it is a pleasure to be here. I would like to highlight some important upcoming events that will showcase TMCC's commitment to the community.

On October 3rd, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, we will participate in Construction Career Day at the Convention Center. Alongside Kyle Cassinelli, I will be at our dedicated table to showcase the applied technology programs available at our Edison Campus.

Additionally, we will host a job fair over two days, starting November 20th, in honor of National Apprenticeship Appreciation Week. This event will feature our union and non-union apprentices, and we will have representatives from the state presenting awards for categories such as Best Apprentice with a Company. This initiative aims to elevate Nevada and TMCC on a national scale. The job fair on November 21st will focus on construction, advanced manufacturing, welding, machining, and transportation. Thank you!

Meeting adjourned at 10:52am
