

Norco College

Manufacturing Technology Industry Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, March 13, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Norco College Campus (STEM Building – Room 125)

Call to Order

The Manufacturing Technology Industry Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Manufacturing Technology faculty member Paul Van Hulle. Committee members, industry representatives, college faculty, staff, and students were welcomed, followed by introductions. Paul introduced new Manufacturing Technology instructors Adam Munoz and Jim Payton, who will be supporting evening course offerings to expand student access.

Attendees

Representatives from the following organizations and partners were in attendance:

- Eibach
- Corona Chamber of Commerce
- Office of Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes
- Ruhnau Clarke Architects
- Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire
- Do It American Manufacturing Company
- Jurupa Unified School District
- Corona-Norco Unified School District (CTE)
- Norco College Manufacturing Technology
- Norco College faculty, staff, and student representatives

Meeting Facilitator: Paul Van Hulle

Note Taker: Shazna Uduman

Agenda Review

The committee approved the meeting agenda with the addition of a tour of the Manufacturing Technology laboratories and classrooms. Advisory members toured the STEM instructional spaces and reviewed recently acquired equipment and instructional laboratory layouts designed to support hands-on technical training.

Program and Curriculum Review

Faculty reviewed current Manufacturing Technology certificates and curriculum pathways, including the CNC Operator and Control Systems Specialist certificates. Committee members discussed stackable credential pathways that allow students to progressively build technical skills leading toward certificates and degrees.

Industry representatives recommended expanding curriculum to include:

- Air compressor systems and maintenance training.
- Greater emphasis on basic hand tool proficiency.
- Maintenance-related competencies throughout technical coursework.
- Additional mathematical preparation, particularly right-angle trigonometry, to better prepare machinists for advanced manufacturing applications.

Faculty also reviewed the Robotics Specialist Certificate and discussed enrollment challenges while seeking industry feedback regarding future program direction and workforce demand.

Industry Trends and Workforce Needs

Committee members discussed current workforce trends and strategies to strengthen the manufacturing talent pipeline.

Key recommendations included:

- Increase student awareness of manufacturing careers beginning in high school through earlier outreach efforts.
- Expand industry tours to expose students to modern manufacturing facilities and career opportunities.

- Strengthen partnerships with local employers such as Eibach to provide facility tours and experiential learning opportunities.
- Utilize SkillsUSA competitions and hands-on demonstrations to increase student interest in manufacturing careers.
- Continue developing pre-apprenticeship opportunities that connect students directly with regional employers.

Committee members emphasized that helping students understand the real-world impact of manufacturing careers is critical for attracting the next generation of skilled workers.

Emerging Technologies

Industry advisors identified several emerging technologies that should continue to shape curriculum development, including:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications in manufacturing and continuous improvement.
- Smart machining technologies.
- Five-axis CNC machining, identified as one of the highest-paying specialty areas within advanced manufacturing.
- Increased use of additive manufacturing (3D printing), with recognition that current SolidWorks instruction provides an important foundation for these technologies.
- National Manufacturing Day as an opportunity to inspire future students through industry engagement and demonstrations of advanced manufacturing processes.

Equipment Needs

The committee discussed equipment priorities necessary to maintain industry-standard instruction. Industry partners expressed willingness to support program growth through equipment donations, including potential refurbished manufacturing equipment that would enhance student laboratory experiences.

Student Preparation and Workforce Readiness

Committee members emphasized that technical skills alone are insufficient for workforce success. Industry representatives highlighted the importance of:

- Professionalism and reliability.
- Punctuality and attendance.
- Teamwork and communication skills.

- Transferable employability skills.
- Student confidence in describing technical knowledge and manufacturing processes.

Committee members shared hiring practices currently used within industry, including requiring applicants to produce short videos describing their technical experience. Faculty noted that similar assignments are already incorporated into Manufacturing Technology coursework to strengthen students' communication and presentation skills alongside technical competencies.

Future Opportunities and Recommendations

The committee discussed strategies for continued program growth and regional workforce development, including:

- Increasing recruitment of women into manufacturing careers.
- Strengthening mathematics preparation for advanced manufacturing occupations.
- Exploring regional transfer opportunities through partnerships with four-year institutions.
- Connecting with regional partners to improve transferability of Manufacturing Technology coursework.
- Continuing collaboration with K–12 districts and industry to expand career awareness and student engagement.

Committee Recommendations and Action Items

The committee recommended the following priorities for the upcoming academic year:

- Continue reviewing Manufacturing Technology certificates to ensure alignment with evolving industry needs.
- Evaluate opportunities to integrate maintenance, AI, and smart manufacturing concepts throughout the curriculum.
- Expand partnerships with local manufacturers to provide tours, internships, and work-based learning opportunities.
- Strengthen outreach efforts targeting K–12 students and underrepresented populations to increase enrollment in Manufacturing Technology programs.
- Continue embedding communication, teamwork, and professional soft skills throughout coursework.
- Pursue equipment donations and external partnerships to maintain industry-standard instructional laboratories.

- Explore articulation and transfer opportunities with regional universities and manufacturing consortiums.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded with appreciation expressed to the advisory committee members for their continued partnership and commitment to supporting Norco College's Manufacturing Technology program. Faculty reaffirmed their commitment to aligning curriculum with industry needs, expanding experiential learning opportunities, and preparing students with the technical and professional skills required to succeed in advanced manufacturing careers.

Minutes Prepared for:

Norco College Career & Technical Education

Manufacturing Technology Industry Advisory Committee

Meeting Facilitator: Paul Van Hulle

Minutes Recorded By: Shazna Uduman

Appendix A – Industry Advisory Committee Members

The following industry representatives, educational partners, Norco College faculty, staff, and student representative participated in the Manufacturing Technology Industry Advisory Committee meeting held on Friday, March 13, 2026, at Norco College.

Committee Member	Organization
Melissa Eckert	Eibach
Tim Gramling	Corona Chamber of Commerce
Colin Markovich	Office of Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes
Patrick McSwain	Industry Representative
Mike Trejo	Industry Representative
Jeff Shyu	Ruhnau Clarke Architects
Marsha Wilkins	Job Developer
Jennifer Yturralde	Industry Representative
Wallace Brithinee	Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire
Kathy Armstrong	Do It American Manufacturing Company (UC)
Mike Ryan	Finance Industry Representative

Pamela Blynn	Jurupa Unified School District Trustee
Denis Sonney	Manufacturing Technology Industry Representative
Linnie Bailey	Corona-Norco Unified School District (CTE)
Trisha Jenkins	Corona-Norco Unified School District (CTE)
Paul Van Hulle	Norco College – Manufacturing Technology
Paula Barrera Partida	Norco College
Shazna Uduman	Norco College
Steven San Juan Rosales	Norco College Student Representative