

## Minutes

Advanced Transportation and Logistics (ATL) Advisory  
Committee Meeting

Time: 11:30-1:00pm

Date: Friday, November 14, 2025

Via zoom: <https://santarosa-edu.zoom.us/j/84533508037>

And in person: Lounibos Service Center, SRJC

**Members in Attendance:** Hari Dhaliwal, Mike Pratt, Brad Reich, Bill Wallace, and Mike Weldon

**Members Absent:** Maria do Ceu , Bob Toep, and Randy Shelton

**Proxy:** None

**SRJC Staff in Attendance:** Dean; Benjamin Goldstein, Department Chair; Jesse Kosten, Program Coordinator; Dave Lemmer, Andrew Ebner, Rachel Smith, Ann Mansfield, Mackenzie Galindo, Megan Rhodes and Tera Hruby

**Invited Guests:** Zac Brand, Eric Rumsower, Merrilee Alvarado, and Ricardo Villagomez

**Was there a quorum: Yes.**

**Call to Order:** Meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Spring 2025 meeting minutes were approved without corrections.

Dean Benjamin Goldstein announced that ATL Program Coordinator David Lemmer will retire following the Spring 2026 semester.

The group examined the broader impact of AI across various industries and explored its potential applications in automotive service writing. They noted that while AI shows promise, effective tools tailored to their specific industry remain limited. Discussion also highlighted the shortcomings of current AI chat systems in interpreting automotive-specific terminology, emphasizing the need for further development to enhance accuracy and usability in this domain.

Marilee Alvarado expressed interest in connecting with Megan Rhodes and Mackenzie Galindo to increase student involvement at Hansel Auto Group.

Michael Pratt reported on the opening of Mendocino Community College's new "clean lab," dedicated to electric vehicle and electrical studies. The facility includes an additional classroom, renovations to existing buildings, outdoor lifts, and expanded parking areas. During the event, the Director of the Mendocino Council of Governments extended an invitation to ATL Program Coordinator Dave Lemmer to attend the Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEB) conference. Dave shared insights from his involvement with the Zero Emission Vehicle board of Northern California county governments, highlighting challenges in rural areas with zero electric vehicle chargers.

The department is currently operating at 100% capacity for the fall semester, with an average of 18.8 students per section. Benjamin Goldstein noted that ITT courses maintain smaller class sizes compared to other programs across the college, but the department is seen as a growth area on campus. SRJC's overall enrollment stands at 87%, as the institution continues working to rebuild student numbers to pre-2017 fire levels. The college has faced ongoing challenges following the fires in 2017, 2018, and 2020, as well as the impacts of COVID-19.

Spring 2026 classes have been posted on the SRJC website, and the college is currently in the priority registration period. ITT students are encouraged to register as soon as possible, as ITT classes tend to fill quickly.

The committee considered the possibility of offering Saturday classes for industry professionals; however, Benjamin noted that contract education has become less viable due to logistical challenges and changes in funding.

Andrew Ebner outlined his shift to 48-student lectures with 24-student labs to maximize limited resources, noting challenges faced by students transitioning from online to in-person learning. Jesse described his system for tracking technician productivity and financial impact, which he believes enhances performance

The program is requesting two full-time faculty positions—one replacement and one growth—as well as additional instructional lab support, with a decision expected within two weeks. Should a position be approved, the program will seek industry support in promoting the job announcement.

Hari Dhaliwal raised concerns about the limited manufacturer support for technological updates in automotive education, emphasizing that while manufacturers continue to develop new technologies, they frequently restrict access to training and repair information. This lack of access poses significant challenges for both educational programs and independent repair shops. Michael Pratt further underscored the issue by highlighting the decline of manufacturer-funded training programs for community colleges, noting that BMW discontinued its support after COVID.

The group addressed workforce development and soft skills training, with Ann Mansfield highlighting efforts to integrate these skills into industry courses and to promote AI literacy.

Dave announced that the new lifts have been installed and are mostly operational, though some adjustments are still needed and a few parts are on order. The committee also shared recommendations regarding lift certification and air supply services.

The group examined challenges in training county fleet mechanics and explored solutions such as internships and apprenticeships. Jesse proposed a classroom model in which students would complete six-hour job blocks in dedicated bays, while Rachel highlighted upcoming legislation that will permit wage payments for internships beginning in July 2026.

The group emphasized the importance of engaging students in internship opportunities and shared insights on teaching methods, highlighting the value of hands-on learning and adapting to diverse learning styles. The discussion also underscored the need to create job opportunities that support students in balancing work and education, with a particular focus on part-time, student-use positions. In addition, members reflected on team dynamics within dealership settings, sharing experiences of both the positive and challenging aspects of teamwork.

Ann and Megan confirmed plans for a Spring Career Fair, building on the success of previous events with 550 attendees, and discussed expanding their employer engagement strategy to include more trades

Next Meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 6, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm