

SRJC Advanced Manufacturing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/9/2026 **Location:** SRJC Lounibos Hall

Industry in attendance: (Quorum Met) In attendance: Ray Esch, Tim Graham, Michael Langston, Michael Maendl, and Craig Murphy

SRJC Faculty/Staff: William McCracken Program Coord./ATM Faculty, Rachael Smith, Megan Rhodes, Mackenzie Galindo and Tera Hruby

Welcome introductions were made.

The committee reviewed the April 10, 2025 meeting minutes.

The group discussed the unsuccessful **\$60,000 Strong Workforce grant** application intended to upgrade outdated HP desktop computers used in CAD/CAM courses. The proposal did not score high enough and was deemed outside the funding scope because IT hardware replacement is considered a college operational responsibility.

Will reported ongoing issues with the aging computers, including:

- Slow performance with modern software
- File-saving failures
- Reduced reliability during instruction

The committee discussed the transition from **FeatureCam** to **Fusion**, noting that current hardware struggles to support both platforms. Members recommended drafting a **formal advisory committee letter to IT** emphasizing the urgency of upgrading computers to support **CAD** and **CAM** instruction. Bill McCracken will draft a proposal seeking advisory committee support for adequate student computer access for **Inventor**, **FeatureCam**, **Fab Creator**, and **GrabCAD**.

Bill notified the committee that the SRJC AMT program received the award of a **\$16,000 Gene Haas Foundation grant**, which will be distributed as student scholarships at the end of the semester.

Planning continued for the **11th Annual Celebrate CE Career Education Event** on **May 22nd**, with strong industry participation but challenges identifying student speakers.

The committee discussed outreach to Langley at the Petaluma machine shop regarding a potential collaboration. **Mike** agreed to raise the topic during his visit later that day.

A recent program graduate who completed the Petaluma machining pathway and now works at **OMW** was highlighted for her successful speaking engagement at the **Women in Manufacturing** conference.

Upcoming events:

- **Graduation:** May 23rd at 8:00 AM
- **Job Fair:** April 15th, 11:00 AM–1:30 PM, expecting **100+ students** and **30+ employers**, with contingency plans for rain

These events reinforce the importance of maintaining strong industry connections and supporting student pathways into **manufacturing careers**.

Megan confirmed **32 employers** will attend the upcoming event, including a full team from OMW.

Keysight Technologies shared updates on their operations:

- Expansion across multiple locations
- 38 machines and 35 employees
- Active hiring for machinists and manufacturing technicians

The committee discussed apprenticeship pathways, including the **California Tooling and Machining Apprenticeship Association (CTMAA)** model. Members expressed interest in developing **pre-apprenticeship programs** to help identify motivated candidates and build foundational skills before full apprenticeship commitments.

The committee reviewed regional manufacturing capabilities and workforce needs.

OMW (Mike):

- Specializes in **5-axis machining**
- Recently expanded with a new machine in Petaluma
- Emphasized the need for graduates skilled in **5-axis programming**

Medtronic (Craig):

- Shared capabilities across multiple facilities
- Uses a range of **3D printing technologies** (SLA, powder bed fusion, binder jet)
- Manages shared services including metrology and inspection systems

Key skills identified for students entering the field:

- 5-axis machining and programming
- Quality assurance and inspection
- Automation and systems integration

The group also discussed potential **metrology training programs**, including NC3 certification and Titans of CNC pathways, to strengthen student readiness in **metrology** and precision measurement.

The meeting included troubleshooting of audio and recording issues, updates on shop tours, and discussion of challenges with the new class registration system. Bill suggested developing student training resources to support smoother enrollment.

Faculty also discussed potential furlough days and healthcare cost adjustments, with plans to negotiate changes to maintain parity with other staff groups.

Meeting adjourned