

MINUTES

Carpentry Program Industry Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
SRJC Petaluma Campus
680 Sonoma Mtn. Parkway
Construction Training Center Carpentry Lab, Building 1400

- Members in attendance: Eileen Russell, Angel Grassi, Dan McCulloch
- Members attending as proxy: Tom Starke (proxy for Kevin Merrit)
- Members absent: Nicolette Weinzveg, Letitia Hanke, Keith Christopherson, Juanita Douglas, Larry Richmond Jr.
- Faculty, staff, and administrators in attendance: Frank DeNiro, Benjamin Goldstein, Gillian Estes
- Invited guests in attendance: Juan Arias

Was there a quorum ___ Yes ___ **X** ___ No (if no quorum, no official business shall be performed)

Commenced/Call to order: Meeting called to order by Eileen Russell, 3:35pm

Welcome & Intros: Each advisory committee member, SRJC faculty & staff member, and invited guest briefly introduced themselves.

Minutes from April 28, 2025 Meeting: No quorum to approve the minutes

Public Comments: none

Carpentry & CTC Status:

- Opened Fall '24; currently in 3rd semester of a 3-semester program.
- First graduation upcoming (36 students).
- Total enrollment: 127 students; good age diversity.
- Weekly hours: 7 hours, ~375 total program hours.
- ~50% of students plan to seek jobs; others attending for personal skill-building.
- Fundraising for a freeway billboard.
- Space beginning to feel small; expanding activities outdoors.
- Added acoustic tiles to reduce noise.
- Strong industry engagement; collaboration with NBCC (North Bay Construction Corps).
- Job placement support available.
- Partnership with North Bay Builders Exchange for HS job placement and program development.
- RCHS interested in pursuing dual enrollment at CTC during the day (Fall 26)

- State grants supporting HS career programs.
- Expanding Spanish-language offerings; working on equivalency for José and Angel.
- Considering worksite Spanish/English crossover content.
- Wine industry layoffs may increase demand for retraining.
- Daytime classes have lower enrollment; mornings may work better than afternoons.
- Tom & Dan could speak about union pathways; union jobs require sponsor and are currently harder to obtain.
- Need apprenticeship flyers (NorCal Carpenters Union).
- Spring: all evening + Saturday classes; possible shift to 9–1 schedule fall 2026.
- Need additional outdoor lighting for evening sessions.
- Classes remain free, noncredit, no homework.

Program Development:

- Students want to continue—consider additional certificates, e.g., finishing carpentry.
- Equipment operations certificate planned for Fall 2026.
 - Potential for marketing photos with equipment lined up.
 - Possibly add simulators; YouTube as supplemental resource.
- Upcoming course (Frank): Exteriors
 - One night/week; covers windows, doors, flashing, exterior trim, decks, fire-hardening, etc.
 - Future goal: Interior trim class.
- Wendy & Marlene planning sign-up activities at graduation.
- Prerequisites: must complete OSHA 10 and Tool Use & Safety before advanced classes.
 - Tool Use & Safety is essential for student success.
- SCOE construction clinics have low turnout — potential for CTC to offer shorter clinics.
- Eileen: suggested connecting program with fire departments, safety inspectors – for fire hardening education

Industry Status:

Residential & Multi-Family Construction Trends:

- Focus on exterior siding for residential and multi-family buildings (e.g., Hardie, other fiber-cement products).
- Increased use of boxed-in eaves and other fire-mitigation construction techniques.
- Building departments now require more fire-resilient materials and fire-retardant products.
- Newer materials being adopted; potential need for retrofitting existing homes to meet updated fire standards.

- Six-foot non-combustible zone around homes becoming standard (e.g., metal gates where fences meet houses, no plantings against decks).

Consumer Preferences & Market Shifts:

- Continued preference for wood-frame construction.
- Growth in ADUs due to easier permitting and city-provided standardized ADU plans.
- Trend toward increased housing density and more affordable units.
- Rising use of metal framing and heavy-duty construction in multi-family dwellings.
- Shift away from unions doing single-home residential builds; more union presence on larger projects.
- Decline in commercial construction demand.

Implications for Training & Workforce Skills:

- Need to teach strong foundational carpentry and building skills applicable across project types.
- Bilingual skills increasingly important for effective communication in the current workforce.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 pm