



Mountain Desert Economic Partnership
Regional Education and Economic Development

Team 3 Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2020
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

In Attendance:	
Ryan Holman, Snowline JUSD, Co-Chair	Sheila Thornton, One Future Coachella Valley
Jeff Dunagan, General Atomics, Co-Chair	Kim McNulty, One Future Coachella Valley
Matt Wells, MDCP JPA	Lilia Aguirre, Victor Valley College
Kendle Crowell, MDCP JPA	Frank Castanos, Victor Valley College
Rebecca Rubio, Lucerne Valley USD	Dave Murphy, ComAV
Carol Tsushima, SBCSS Alliance for Education	

Next Steps/Tasks:	
1) Planning for May 28th Teacher Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Collect course outlines/equipment lists from HS teachers b) Breakdown of Period 1 offerings at VVC c) Meeting content 	Matt Frank Jeff, Matt
2) Webchat Series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Survey teachers to determine the content that needs to be covered in the chats 	Matt, Kendle

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. MDEP Current Culture - Subcommittees Galore

Since the April meeting, we have had 5-7 subcommittees a week.

Team 1 update:

- Organizing an Innovation Kickoff event on May 27th to develop the ecosystem for the virtual startup lab and development of the actual Innovation Incubation Center.

Team 2 update:

- The presentation has been refined and is almost ready to be put into a presentation form that a team could take to a four year university to show what we can offer them and how they can fill the education gap for us.

Team 3 update:

- Developing Mechatronics curriculum and alignment between what is being taught currently in HS and CC and what skills industry needs that can be added to existing curriculum.
- Developing a webinar series for Mechatronics that will feature industry partners from our region who work in this space. The series will be developed over the summer for deployment to students in the Fall. This will help to show students what Mechatronics careers look like. We can incorporate a tour of the HD Training Center at SCLA as a part of the series.

Team 4 update:

- Essential Skills buckets and descriptors were refined.
- A booklet was created and will be deployed based on the recommendations of the team today.
 - The initial target audience for the booklet are the graduating seniors.
 - Many companies endorsed the booklet and are excited to learn how to incorporate the MDEP skills in the workplace.

3. *Mechatronics Pathway Development*

a. Curriculum Alignment

- Building the Mechatronics Pathway More Simply - HS, CC and Industry Collaboration Using Current Infrastructure.
- Jeff went through the educator survey to simplify it, identify the areas where industry partners need entry level skills that can be inserted into existing pathway curriculum related to Mechatronics. This will accelerate the process of exposing the students and expose them to jobs after HS or show them the bridge more clearly into VVC/BCC certificate and degree programs.
- Jeff came up with three categories of Need to Increase (areas from the survey that aren't being covered well in schools), Could Expand (areas from the survey being covered at about 50%), and Doing Well (every CTE program is covering the content really thoroughly)
- We need to establish the skillsets of the teachers and better understand the equipment at their disposal in order to be able to approve upon the areas that need to be expanded or increased.
- Jeff broke down what each school in each district offers that would be in line with a mechatronics program. Need to understand what is covered in their content that would be in a Mechatronics program, so we will need each educator to guide us in that understanding.
- If we can organize a meeting with a group of educators, we can start to find out from them how to go about improving upon their curriculum and how industry or the team at large can support them in these efforts.
- Feedback on what Jeff presented:
 - MDCP can get equipment lists and course outlines from the CTE teachers to help get the ball rolling. That may be easier than getting specific teachers to break down each area of their course.
 - A focus group with one or two volunteer teachers per district that could help us understand what to build upon.
 - Pick something like welding or systems diagnostic, service and repair that covers all the districts to build that focus group and help drill down the subsets of the curriculum. If you put a welding teacher and software developer teacher together, it will be harder for them to find a common ground.
 - Carol agreed the course outlines will be a great jumping off point. There are programs listed for every high school to pull teachers from that are all covering the same curriculum and ask them how they might enhance the skill sets we are looking for and

determine the support they need. We could hone in on specific questions we are asking the instructors by reviewing course outlines ahead of meeting with them. Propose this as a partnership and offer support.

- Sheila suggested introducing this to specific subgroups of teachers from the perspective of: this is the workforce we are trying to build and we want your students to be more prepared in these categories. In order to get a student that is hireable, we are proposing that you take what you are already doing and stretch it to include these elements (let them pick the elements from the list Jeff gathered, so it is an incremental move to meet what the workforce needs are). That way the subject matter is very specific and it moves us closer to a full career academy and teaching these skills
- Be intentional about putting in front of these teachers that they will be helping to accelerate this piece of the puzzle that prepares students for what the workforce needs. Ensure they understand they are helping to build a workforce and it needs to be communicated to students that mastering these skill sets will prepare them with what our local employers are looking for.
- Use, adapt, create incremental steps that help students see themselves being successful in the workforce. “Your CTE class is preparing you to be on your way to...(CC program or entry level Mechatronics position)”
- Students need to see the transferable skill sets within the guided pathways through the CCs that can compliment the work they are already doing.
- Once teachers better understand what Mechatronics is, how broad it is, how many sectors this reaches and what we are trying to accomplish is driven by industry, it will help them understand the importance of this feedback loop process.
- Teachers and students need to see how each industry sector crosses over in the way that they relate to Mechatronics. Understanding those interconnections will help in messaging that adaptive employees who have experience in multiple areas will have the upper hand. For example, a welder needs to know they can work in this space and expand on their skill sets.
- The webchats could be an introductory piece in informing the teachers before we meet in person.
- 75% of training happens on the job, not in a classroom. We need to model that cumulative knowledge gets a student closer to being a great worker.
- Marketing of this is so important so the community understands that there *are* jobs here in Mechatronics and it is a combination of industry sectors. It is a problem when the data is disconnected from what the actual need is. That can be really detrimental in terms of funding for a region.
- It is critical that we have information from businesses who actually do the hiring stating that this is what we need - that will be the best way to gather more accurate data.

Next steps:

- Set up web chat with one individual group of educators: Auto and Welding (including Ag Mechanics)
- Next week could work for teachers - it will be the best opportunity to get teachers in front of the concepts before summer break. It is helpful for teachers to know what they need to plan for before the Fall. Many districts have asked their CTE teachers to review their course outlines during this time, so it really is the right time to have these conversations.
- Date: May 28th at 1pm
- Jeff will look for a colleague to co-host the chat with him in case breakouts are needed.
- Share with the teachers about the Period 1 offering at VVC and get their input on what they already cover, the kind of value.

b. Webchat Series

- Leading Through Disruption - Upcoming Chats & Speakers
- Mechatronics for Teachers/Students - Launching Fall, 2020
 - Need to survey teachers to understand what concepts they need to see covered
 - Regardless of what school looks like in the Fall, these will be videos that students need to see as part of the WBL continuum that will go long past when we go back to normal.
 - The series will be part of the story that needs to be told - finding localized information is so important and will impact students and our employers in the long term. Students can learn these skills and work in careers without having to leave this area. There are local educational and employment opportunities!
 - We need industry partners who are local, passionate and can show how cool this is and the opportunities that exist in the field.
 - The series will also serve to connect the HS students to the CC programs that already exist.
 - This is a grace period for the quality of filming things, so the videos don't have to be uber professional.

c. Frank shared their list of courses under the new Industrial Mechanical and Industrial Electrical Program at VVC/HD Training Center:

- They mirrored the program off of Chaffey's InTech Center, which is a very successful model.
- Period 1 is for High School, CC level students to get an intro into the content, receive a certificate, and hopefully gain entry level employment or move into an apprenticeship.
- Period 2 is for incumbent employees or upskilling.
- So far, the classes are not for credit. Doing it as a fee based course could be problematic. We would have to figure out if the HSs had funding to sponsor their students or see if WDD could sponsor a cohort of students.
- This will expand the education of HS students and give them opportunity to be exposed to jobs.

4. MDEP Conclave

We need to meet in person for this event to be the most impactful. If we can't meet in person by the August 19th date, we will postpone.

5. Decision: MDEP Meeting Through Summer

6. Next Meeting: June 16, 2020