

Fall 2021 OAC Meeting

Committee Member Roster

Program: Air Conditioning and Refrigeration

Campus: Lacombe

Associate Provost Approval (signature): _____

Name	Employer	Title	Business Address	Contact Information (phone #/email address)
1. Richard Distefano	NTCC	HVAC Instructor		richarddistefano@northshorecollege.edu
2. Mike Robinson	Johnstone Supply	Territory Manager		mikerobinson@johnstonesupply.com
3. Mary Slazer	NTCC	Director of Institutional Advancement		maryslazer@northsorecollege.edu
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6.				



AGENDA

Occupational Advisory Committee (OAC) Meeting

HVAC at Lacombe Campus

December 6th 2021

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order

Discussion of Minutes of Last Meeting

1. Business and Industry Update (OAC)
2. Curriculum Review
 - i. Review of Admissions Requirements
 - ii. Review of Program Content
 - iii. Review of Program Length
 - iv. Review of Delivery Modes Offered
 - v. Review of Equipment and Materials (OAC only)
3. Program Review
 - i. Discuss Program Assessment Plan Results
 - ii. Student Evaluation
 - iii. Discuss Program Health Index Results (as applicable)
4. Action Items & Action Report (Industry Prompted Action Items)
 - i. Action items requested of the Program of Study from the OAC
 - ii. Report on progress related to action items established at previous OAC meeting

Adjourn

Upon the conclusion of each meeting, meeting minutes should be compiled that includes a detailed summary of discussion within each agenda item. Minutes should document meeting attendance, the date and time the meeting was held, and include an approved OAC member roster.

**Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
Occupational Advisory Committee Minutes
December 6, 2021 @ 3:00 pm**

Members Present: Rich Distefano, Mike Robinson (Johnstone Supply)

Guest: Mary Slazer, NTCC Director of Institutional Advancement Services

The Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Program's Fall 2021 Advisory Committee meeting was held via Microsoft Teams. Rich Distefano called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm, stating that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss opportunities to improve the program and discuss what's new in the field. He asked for input about ECM's (electronically commutated motors) becoming more prevalent. Mike Robinson stated that Fan Efficiency Ratings (FER) requirements for gas furnaces that go into effect in 2022 will necessitate the use of true variable speed motors. In 2023, minimum Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio of 15 will be required. This will be a "hard deadline" in that companies will not be able to sell existing inventory with lower SEER after the deadline. He added that the technology is gravitating to inverter-based platforms and communication systems, and that ECM's will be more efficient, but not as long lasting.

Robinson stated that the biggest issue is currently the labor shortage, and his company is happy to get NTCC apprentices. He find a lot of new hires don't seem to have the commitment to increase knowledge, even though there are so many online resources. He mentioned Kalos Services in Florida as a company that uses social media extensively. They also do training and bring together top minds in the industry for podcasts. Robinson stated that many HVAC professionals are getting into "whole home performance" such as The Energy Conservancy's Duct Blaster for precise airflow analysis.

Distefano reported that he has researched blogs and videos for HVAC instruction which he shares with the class. A number of students are so interested they can't seem to learn enough. Robinson stated that he has observed that some people think trades are looked down upon, but miss the fact that there's such a need for skilled tradesmen, that most can quickly make more than graduates with 4-year degrees. Distefano stated that he lets his students know they'll start as helpers but sometimes they'll be paired with technicians who don't know as much as they do. He finds that students are better at problem-solving than many technicians. He advises students to stay ahead of the curve in knowledge and the salaries will follow. Good problem-solving ability is critical to success.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Mary Slazer, Director of Institutional Advancement Services

December 8, 2021

Spring 2022 OAC Meeting

Committee Member Roster

Program: HVAC

Campus: Lacombe

Associate Provost Approval (signature): _____

Name	Employer	Title	Business Address	Contact Information (phone #/email address)
1. Dean Owen Smith	NTCC	Dean	Lacombe Campus	Ex. 1217
2. Mary Slazer	NTCC	Director of Institutional Advancement Services	Lacombe Campus	Ex. 1284
3. Rich Distefano	NTCC	HVAC Instructor	Lacombe Campus	Ex. 1251
4. Mike Robinson	Johnstone Supply	Territory Manager	536 J F Smith Ave. Slidell, La 70460	mikerobinson@johnstonesupply.com
5. John D Smith	Goozee Construction	Director of Ops.	1001 Harimaw Ct. S Metairie, La 70001	jsmith@goozee.com
6. Greg Adams	REMCO	Senior Service Manager	995 Yeager Parkway Pelham, Al 35124	radams@tbssoutheast.com



SAMPLE AGENDA

Occupational Advisory Committee (OAC) Meeting

HVAC Lacombe, La

April 11th 2022 @ 3pm

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order

Discussion of Minutes of Last Meeting

New Business:

1. Business and Industry Update (OAC)
2. Curriculum Review
 - i. Review of Admissions Requirements
 - ii. Review of Program Content
 - iii. Review of Program Length
 - iv. Review of Delivery Modes Offered
 - v. Review of Equipment and Materials (OAC only)
3. Program Review
 - i. Discuss Program Assessment Plan Results
 - ii. Student Evaluation
 - iii. Discuss Program Health Index Results (as applicable)
4. Action Items & Action Report (Industry Prompted Action Items)
 - i. Action items requested of the Program of Study from the OAC
 - ii. Report on progress related to action items established at previous OAC

(Add any discussion items as needed)

Adjourn

Upon the conclusion of each meeting, meeting minutes should be compiled that includes a detailed summary of discussion within each agenda item. Minutes should document meeting attendance, the date and time the meeting was held, and include an approved OAC member roster.



**Occupational Advisory Committee
HVAC Program
Microsoft Teams
April 11, 2022**

Attending in person:

Rich Distefano – HVAC Instructor, NTCC
Owen Smith – Lacombe Campus Dean, NTCC
Tiffany Fowler – Career Services Director, NTCC
John Smith – Gootee Construction
Mike Robinson – Johnstone Supply
Greg Adams - REMCO
Mary Slazer – Director of Institutional Advancement Services, NTCC

Lacombe Campus Dean Owen Smith welcomed members of the committee.

Rich Distefano asked if there were any questions about or changes to the minutes from the meeting of December 8, 2021. None were noted.

Distefano briefly reviewed the discussion from that meeting which included the labor shortage in the HVAC industry, SEER ratings, energy conservation, the use of videos & blogs for training, and the need for good problem solving and critical thinking skills. He added that ECM motors have been added to the curriculum although PSC's are still being taught. Students are watching videos on their own time and discussing them in class.

Distefano explained that the purpose of the advisory committee is to provide input on what's happening in the field. Mike Robinson offered that the new things in the field include inverters, communicating systems, variable refrigerant flow technology, EEV's, truly variable speed motors, variable speed controls. He added that there's rapid development in infrastructure like the power grid, especially in the Greater New Orleans area. The standard practices of air flow measurement are being replaced with newer tools and practices. The Energy Conservatory is now interested in capturing true air flow measurement in all systems. The new tool is the TruFlow. They are training on it in the region. Whole house performance is also becoming more important. Contractors are "tightening up" homes and attention needs to be paid to airflow as in our area we're susceptible to rising humidity as a result. Not enough attention is paid to the ventilation component of HVAC. He is seeing some builders designing with dew point in mind and incorporating dehumidifiers.

Owen Smith asked about changes in refrigerant laws. Robinson explained that AL2 refrigerant is supposed to be implemented in 2025. Daikon is pioneering the R32 development and Carrier is using

454B and other manufacturers will follow one of those two AL2 refrigerants for unitary equipment lines. Esco is pioneering and writing the documents on the new refrigerants. They are going to be commonplace in our market. Smith added that Dean Lambert has verified that NTCC instructors are proctors and can administer exams on these new refrigerants. NTCC will add curriculum for AL2 in 2023.

Robinson advised to make sure students are purchasing the right tools to compatible with the AL2 refrigerants. Distefano asked if Esco will have additional tests for flammable refrigerants. Robinson said that hasn't been confirmed.

John Smith reported that ECM motors are causing delivery delays along with other product delivery delays. Labor shortage seems to be across the board. His company has 86 staff in the field, almost all working overtime for past 6 months. They have 86, could use 120-130. He added that there is nothing special needed in VRF and VRV training, just keep training on silver solder on small bore copper. His company does installation in stages so not everyone has to know silver solder. There's a good living in HVAC.

Distefano told the group that dual enrollment in HVAC has started with 2 classes in fall, 2 in spring. Students passed the core on the EPA. Owen Smith added that NTCC will take 15 students in the fall, but there's a waiting list of 25. They come to NTCC for classes. Greg Adams asked if this is like the dual enrollment he attended as a high school student. Owen Smith stated that NTCC has dual enrollment classes across all 5 parishes where we have campuses with the largest dual enrollment in Lacombe – about 500 students across 8 high schools, plus we're getting a growing number of dual enrollment home school students.

Robinson asked how NTCC gets students to actively think about this career path. Owen Smith explained that the Director of Career Services position has been filled and she is working closely with high school and junior high school counselors about what is offered at NTCC. Tiffany Fowler is planning career and hiring fairs. Owen Smith stated that we encourage students to work after their first semester while also attending school. The 6-week Career Summer Exploration Academy last year taught participants about programs at NTCC; 10 enrolled in NTCC after the program with 4 in HVAC. She offered the committee the opportunity to speak to the participants at the 2022 session. The STEM lab outreach has also been helpful in giving students the opportunity to explore hands-on and get a better feel for the trade. She asked group to send any ideas they may have about recruiting for the program.

Fowler asked Robinson where he finds new hires. He replied that as a wholesale distributor, he is sometimes able to assist positioning someone with a company, but they are usually coming from another company not out of school. Some students do go into the field straight from high school. He said he sees some technicians making more money than their parents with no school debt, company vehicles, and benefits. A true benefit package is essential.

John Smith stated he is affiliated with the Local 60 Union and sees the benefit of union, especially apprenticeships which can be very beneficial. Fowler added that several unions were represented at a recent job fair at Chapapeela.

Distefano explained that he educates students about different paths – going to work as a helper, which is dependent on the strength of the technician who oversees them; taking a union apprenticeship; or going to trade school. Many are interested in the union model as they've seen relatives go that path.

John Smith added that he has seen the union apprenticeship model, which is more on the job training than trade school. He added that students must be encouraged to keep up their licenses, for example the medical gas license they may get in apprenticeship, and not let them lapse.

Distefano invited participants to contact him about coming in to talk to students at lunch time and perhaps do some recruiting.

Greg Adams offered to donate a new 208, 3-phase exhaust hood for training purposes, which Distefano said would be useful.

Owen Smith concluded the meeting by thanking the members for their participation and input.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Slazer