



Drafting & Architecture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 13, 2026

Program Area: Drafting & Architecture

Location: Norco College – Lab ATEC 109

Meeting Type: Industry Advisory Committee Meeting

Advisory Committee Members / Industry & Community Representatives Present

- **Christopher Lee** – Meleika Lee and Associates
- **Kevin Bash** – City of Norco, Council Member
- **Jeff Shyu** – Ruhnau Clarke Architects
- **Chip McCorkle** – Pankow Builders

College Faculty / Staff Present

- **Farshid Mirzaei** – Norco College Drafting & Architecture Faculty
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The meeting notes identify Farshid Mirzaei as the College faculty representative and Christopher Lee, Kevin Bash, Jeff Shyu, and Chip McCorkle as participating industry/community advisory members.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Farshid Mirzaei welcomed the advisory committee members and provided an overview of the Drafting & Architecture instructional environment. Members were given a brief tour of **Lab 109**, including the tools and equipment currently available to students.

The opening discussion emphasized the importance of maintaining instructional facilities and equipment that reflect current workplace practices and technology used by employers in drafting, architecture, construction, and related design fields.

2. Additional Agenda Items

The committee was invited to identify additional topics for discussion.

Kevin Bash introduced an emerging community opportunity associated with the planned closure of the **Norco Prison in June 2026**. Discussion focused on the potential reuse of the facility and the possibility of involving Norco College Drafting & Architecture students in preparing **as-built drawings** of the existing facility.

Committee members recognized this as a potential opportunity for students to apply drafting skills to an authentic community project while gaining practical experience working with an existing structure and real-world documentation requirements.

Potential Student Engagement Opportunity

The advisory committee discussed exploring a partnership that could:

- Provide students with real-world drafting experience.
- Allow students to practice preparing as-built drawings.
- Connect classroom instruction to a community redevelopment project.
- Provide students with work-based learning and portfolio-development opportunities.
- Allow Norco College students to contribute technical skills to a local community project.

No formal partnership or project approval was recorded at this meeting. The opportunity was identified for continued exploration and follow-up.

3. Annual Program Recap and Enrollment

The program provided an enrollment update for selected Drafting & Architecture courses.

Course	Course Type	Enrollment
DFT/ENE-30 / DFT 830 – AutoCAD	Credit / Noncredit	27
DFT-31 / DFT 831 – Advanced AutoCAD	Credit / Noncredit	27
DFT-62 / DFT 862 – Fusion 360	Credit / Noncredit	25
ARE-35 – History of Architecture I	Credit	31
ARE-36 – History of Architecture II	Credit	36

The enrollment information demonstrates continued student participation in foundational CAD, advanced CAD, digital design, and architecture coursework. The advisory discussion also reinforced the value of maintaining both **credit and noncredit entry points** for students and community members seeking current technical skills.

4. Regional Labor Market Information Update

The committee reviewed labor-market information related to **Architectural and Civil Drafters**, with particular attention to how emerging technology is changing the entry-level drafting profession.

The **Inland Empire/Desert Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research** January 2026 Labor Market Assessment for Architectural and Civil Drafters assessed **Architectural Drafting (TOP 0953.10)** and **Civil Drafting (TOP 0953.20)**. The report found a positive labor-market outlook for the occupation group and provided evidence supporting continued workforce preparation in drafting-related programs.

Regional Labor Market Highlights

According to the IE/D COE assessment:

- There were approximately **848 Architectural and Civil Drafting jobs in the Inland Empire/Desert region in 2024**.
- Employment is projected to **increase approximately 5% through 2029**.
- The region is projected to have approximately **78 annual job openings**, including new and replacement positions.
- Approximately **122 unique online job postings from 65 employers** were identified during the 12-month period analyzed.
- The highest-volume advertised positions included **designer and civil designer** roles.

- The estimated entry-level wage at the 25th percentile was approximately **\$26.36 per hour**, above the IE/D living-wage benchmark used in the assessment.
- Online job advertisements indicated an advertised entry-level wage of approximately **\$30.03 per hour**, equivalent to roughly \$62,462 annually.
- The report identified an average of only **20 annual community college awards** in related programs during the previous three academic years, compared with the projected annual demand of 78 openings.

Implications for Norco College

The labor-market information supports continued investment in Drafting & Architecture pathways because regional employers continue to require individuals who can produce technical drawings, digital models, construction documentation, and design-related deliverables.

The data also suggests an opportunity for Norco College to continue strengthening its **credit-to-noncredit pathways, industry certifications, employer relationships, and work-based learning opportunities** so students can develop marketable skills before entering the workforce.

The IE/D COE's broader 2025 subregional research was developed specifically to help community colleges align CTE programs with regional employment demand, projected growth, and "Good Job" opportunities. The Riverside Metro subregion—which includes Norco College—identified Construction among its largest employing industries and identified opportunities for community colleges to align programs with regional workforce needs. ([Labor Market Research Center](#))

5. Impact of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Industry Technology

A significant discussion focused on the impact of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** on drafting and architecture.

Advisory members discussed how AI and other emerging technologies are increasingly being used to accelerate portions of the design process, particularly:

- Conceptual design development.
- Rendering.
- Graphic production.
- Early-stage design exploration.
- Rapid development of design alternatives.

However, the committee recognized that AI is not currently replacing the broader role of the designer, particularly the human aspects of:

- Client communication.
- Understanding client needs.
- Design decision-making.
- Interpretation of project requirements.
- Critical thinking.
- Problem-solving.
- Professional judgment.

The discussion reinforced the importance of preparing students to **use emerging technology rather than simply compete against it.**

Recommended Instructional Emphasis

As AI continues to change the drafting profession, the program should continue emphasizing:

- 1. Critical thinking**
- 2. Problem-solving**
- 3. Conceptual design**
- 4. Design interpretation**
- 5. Communication with clients and project teams**
- 6. Technical accuracy**
- 7. Professional judgment**
- 8. Effective use of AI and digital design tools**

The advisory discussion also recognized the need for students to understand how new technology can improve efficiency while still requiring human oversight and professional decision-making.

6. Instruction and Curriculum Updates

The committee reviewed current and planned instructional changes intended to respond to evolving workforce requirements.

Current Noncredit Offerings

Norco College currently provides **free noncredit certificate opportunities in Revit, AutoCAD, and Fusion 360**. These offerings create accessible entry points for students, incumbent workers, and community members seeking to update their technical skills without beginning with a traditional credit pathway.

Continued Expansion of Noncredit Curriculum

Faculty reported ongoing efforts to expand free noncredit offerings for students and community members.

Courses specifically identified for continued curriculum development and/or expansion included:

- **DFT 52 – GDT**
- **DFT 21 – Drafting**

The committee discussion supported continuing to evaluate additional noncredit opportunities that respond quickly to changes in employer technology and provide students with shorter-term, workforce-focused training.

Curriculum Direction

The overall curriculum direction discussed by the committee was to:

- Increase access to free, career-focused noncredit education.
- Keep CAD and digital design skills current.
- Incorporate emerging technologies into instruction.
- Maintain alignment with employer expectations.
- Strengthen students' critical-thinking and problem-solving abilities.
- Provide students with skills that remain valuable even as AI automates portions of technical production.

No formal curriculum vote was documented in the meeting notes. The curriculum items discussed should therefore be treated as program-development priorities and follow-up items rather than formally approved curriculum changes.

7. Workplace Trends and Emerging Technologies

Advisory members discussed several technology trends affecting the Drafting & Architecture industry.

Artificial Intelligence

AI is increasingly being incorporated into conceptual design and rendering workflows. Students should understand how to use AI responsibly as a productivity and design-support tool.

Model and Prototype Development

The committee discussed new tools and technologies associated with both:

- **Additive construction/manufacturing**, including 3D printing and related modeling processes.
- **Subtractive construction/manufacturing**, including processes that remove material to produce components or models.

These developments reinforce the importance of students understanding both digital design and physical fabrication processes.

Industry Skill Expectations

Although the original agenda included current skill expectations, new policies/initiatives, and future industry trends, no additional specific employer requirements or policy recommendations were documented under those headings. The broader discussion emphasized technical proficiency combined with critical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to adapt to rapidly changing technology.

8. Equipment Needs

The advisory committee discussed the condition of the program's current 3D-printing equipment.

The **MakerBot 3D printers**, with the exception of the Bamboo unit, were identified as obsolete and in need of replacement or modernization.

Recommended Equipment Direction

The program should investigate acquiring newer **robotic 3D printers** capable of producing quick, lightweight products and prototypes.

Updating the equipment would support:

- Current additive manufacturing practices.
- Digital design-to-production workflows.
- Student prototyping.
- Hands-on learning.
- Integration of emerging technologies.
- Industry-relevant project development.

The equipment need is particularly relevant as the program considers how to prepare students for technology-intensive drafting, architecture, manufacturing, and construction environments.

9. Student Engagement, Retention, and Workforce Preparation

The committee discussed student retention in the context of rapidly changing industry expectations.

Because drafting and architecture technologies continue to evolve, students need to understand that success in the field requires more than learning a specific software application.

The committee emphasized the importance of developing students who can:

- Think conceptually.
- Analyze problems.
- Develop solutions.
- Adapt to new software and technologies.
- Communicate effectively.
- Apply technical knowledge to real-world situations.
- Continue learning as technology changes.

The advisory committee's feedback supports continued emphasis on **transferable skills and professional competencies** in addition to software-specific training.

10. Industry and Community Engagement

The committee identified potential opportunities for stronger industry engagement and authentic work-based learning.

The proposed Norco Prison reuse/as-built drawing project was identified as a particularly promising opportunity because it could provide students with exposure to:

- Existing-building documentation.
- As-built drawing preparation.
- Community-based design projects.
- Client/community needs.
- Professional communication.
- Real project constraints.
- Portfolio development.

Jeff Shyu and Kevin Bash discussed the potential for Norco students to participate in this type of real-world experience. The committee recognized that such an opportunity could simultaneously provide **student work-based learning and community service**.

11. Perkins V / CTE Program Development Implications

The advisory discussion provides several areas that can support Norco College's CTE and Perkins V priorities.

Access and Equity

The expansion of free noncredit training in AutoCAD, Revit, Fusion 360, and other drafting-related skills provides lower-barrier entry points into CTE education and can help students and working adults obtain current workforce skills.

Industry-Relevant Curriculum

The committee's emphasis on AI, digital design, prototyping, critical thinking, and problem-solving supports ongoing curriculum modernization.

Work-Based Learning

The potential as-built drawing project associated with the Norco Prison reuse represents a strong opportunity for authentic work-based learning and community-connected instruction.

Equipment Modernization

Updating obsolete 3D-printing equipment would help ensure that students have access to current technologies used in digital design, prototyping, and related technical fields.

Workforce Alignment

The IE/D COE labor-market assessment identifies a projected **5% increase in Architectural and Civil Drafting employment through 2029 and approximately 78 annual openings**, while the region produced an average of only 20 related community college awards annually during the period studied. This indicates a potential regional supply gap and supports continued investment in Drafting & Architecture education.

12. Decisions, Votes, and Recommendations

Formal Votes

No formal votes were documented in the March 13, 2026 meeting notes.

Accordingly, the following items should be recorded as **discussion items, recommendations, or potential next steps**, rather than formal committee-approved actions:

- Expansion of noncredit Drafting & Architecture offerings.
- Continued development of DFT 52 GDT and DFT 21 Drafting-related opportunities.
- Incorporation of AI and emerging technology into instruction.
- Greater emphasis on critical thinking and problem-solving.
- Replacement/modernization of obsolete MakerBot 3D printers.
- Exploration of the Norco Prison reuse/as-built drawing project.
- Development of additional work-study/work-based learning opportunities.

13. Action Items and Next Steps

Action Item	Responsible Party	Status/Next Step
Explore collaboration related to the potential Norco Prison reuse project	Norco College / Advisory Members	Follow up with City of Norco and relevant partners
Determine feasibility of students preparing as-built drawings	Program / Industry Partners	Explore scope, requirements, supervision, and student participation
Continue development of free noncredit Drafting & Architecture opportunities	Drafting & Architecture Faculty	Continue curriculum development and review
Evaluate DFT 52 GDT and DFT 21 Drafting offerings	Drafting & Architecture Faculty	Continue review for workforce alignment

Incorporate AI-related skills and responsible technology use into instruction	Faculty / Advisory Committee	Continue curriculum and instructional discussions
Evaluate replacement of obsolete MakerBot 3D printers	Program / College	Identify equipment specifications and funding opportunities
Identify additional work-study/work-based learning opportunities	Program / Advisory Members	Maintain communication with industry partners
Continue monitoring regional labor-market demand	Program / College	Use IE/D COE and employer feedback to inform program planning

The final documented next step was for Norco College to remain in contact with advisory members regarding **collaboration and possible work/study opportunities for students**.

14. Overall Advisory Committee Findings

The March 13, 2026 Drafting & Architecture Advisory Committee meeting demonstrated continued alignment between Norco College's Drafting & Architecture programs and the evolving needs of the Inland Empire/Desert labor market.

The regional labor-market assessment indicates continued demand for Architectural and Civil Drafting occupations, with **848 jobs in 2024, projected 5% employment growth through 2029, and approximately 78 annual openings**. At the same time, the region's relatively low number of annual community college awards compared with projected openings suggests an opportunity for Norco College to continue preparing students for these careers.

Advisory feedback further indicates that the future of drafting and architecture education should extend beyond traditional CAD software training. Students will need a combination of **technical proficiency, digital design skills, AI awareness, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, conceptual design, and adaptability**.

The committee also identified meaningful opportunities to strengthen work-based learning through community and industry partnerships. In particular, the potential Norco Prison reuse project could provide students with authentic experience preparing as-built drawings while contributing technical services to a local community project.

Overall, the advisory committee feedback supports continued program investment in **current technology, accessible noncredit training, curriculum modernization, authentic work-based learning, employer engagement, and development of transferable professional skills.**

Meeting adjourned.