



Date: October 6, 2025
To: Dr. Laurie Borowicz
From: Barbara Leach
Re: FA25 Advisory Committee Minutes

Truck Driver Training Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: September 10, 2025

External Participants:

Ryan Engelbarts – Trucking Operations Manager for Illinois, CHS
Terry Johnson – Fleet Safety Manager, Upstaging
Lindsay Loyd – Fleet Manager, Queens Trucking and Construction, Inc.
Moses Rodriguez – Safety-Compliance, Upstaging

Internal Participants:

Barbara Leach – VP Office of Instruction
Jessica Berek – Dean Office of Instruction
Jescelynne Gibbons – Associate Dean Office of Instruction
Catherine Macias – Administrative Assistant
Tricia Troyer – Truck Driver Training Coordinator

I. College Updates

A. Updates

- i. College-wide Growth – Enrollment increased by 5.4% compared to Fall 2024.
- ii. New program for “All-in” tuition – students’ books are included with tuition.
- iii. CTE Open House planned for October 15.

B. Future Projects

- i. Greenhouse being rebuilt and modernized.

II. Department Updates

A. Program Growth

- i. 3 full-time instructors; 3 trucks including 1 manual transition and 2 automatic transmission trucks.
- ii. 060 Course Update
 1. FY24 – 160-hour 060 class (42 students).
 2. FY25 – 160-hour 060 class (60 students).
- iii. Contractor Training Update
 1. FY24 – ComEd (93 students).

2. FY25 – ComEd (54 students).
3. Additional smaller cohorts for local companies and a non-profit.

iv. DPT Cohorts

1. Two cohorts completed (11 students).
2. One additional cohort in December / January (7 anticipated students).
3. Students were given a discount through grant funding.

B. FY25 Updates

i. Community outreach to form new partnerships

1. Build advisory committee and partnerships.
2. Outreach to businesses to increase enrollment in program.

ii. Repaired manual semi and able to offer manual training

1. Upstaging fleet is 50% automatic, 50% manual. Drivers must be able to drive any transmission due to breakdowns or staffing needs. Applicants are not considered without manual endorsement.
2. Loyd from Queens has been pushing for manual training for several years; fleet is a combination– need to have drivers that can do both.
3. CHS's fleet is 95% manual transmission, easier to maneuver in fields.
4. Business partners all agreed manual license endorsement is very important. While big companies tend to have automatics for over the road jobs, manuals still play an important role.

C. Program Goals

i. Enhanced training and testing on the manual semi.

ii. Explore training simulators.

1. This allows training on manual transmission, mountain driving, snow, floods, rain, or people situation.
2. Advisory members were interested in this and hope that it can be acquired for the program.

iii. Increased program marketing.

D. Questions for partners

i. What would employers like to see added to curriculum or program overall?

1. More training on logs, safety, hard braking, stopping distance, and Department of Transportation communications.
2. Electronic logs on tablets are the norm. They use Samsara and Motive. Stress that the logs are a federal document, and if written incorrectly, could be charged with falsification of a federal document.
3. Incorporate Interstate driving and small towns, which include tight maneuvers. Need to understand weight and size limits on the roads.

4. Refresher training is mainly done in-house so it is not needed. Manual training refresher courses could be good along with offering a manual endorsement class.
- ii. When students apply for a job what are they missing?
 1. Pre-trip and post-trip inspection – very important and can be missed.
- iii. Is there a need for tanker endorsement or hazardous waste?
 1. They need experience pulling a tanker before a tanker endorsement.

III. Partner Updates – all

A. Hiring/Labor Market Needs

- i. Still demand for drivers. However, new employees do not always meet company standards. Students need to realize the commitment involved. Jobs could require 9 months of driving away from home for some employers.
- ii. Johnson, Upstaging, mentioned they have a recruiter that does an in-depth background check and does some one-on-one conversations before the candidate is sent over for an interview. Interview skills are important.