

Dean's response:

The Automotive program at Weber State is recognized nationally and serves both the local market through its service two-year degree and the national and international manufacturing base through its bachelor degree. The program(s) are expensive in terms of space, personnel, and equipment as it relates to student FTE. I've also been concerned about a downward trend in student enrollment. However, the program has been exemplary in raising funding through grants and targeted appropriations to help defray costs. Additionally, it has been, and remains, exemplary in its marketing and recruitment efforts – including a creative approach to concurrent enrollment students. It has world class facilities. Its YouTube channel is the most visited of Weber State's. It has also continually looked to upgrade its offerings in light of the paradigm shifting effects of alternative fuels, electric vehicles, electronic diagnostics, and automated driving. It is recognized and supported by the state for those efforts. It has recently put together a program to reintroduce the Automotive Engineering Technology degree with an emphasis on electronics which should, given the degrees at comparable national schools, increase enrollments. The department has ambitions to eventually accommodate transportation as a whole and not only automotive transportation. Given their grit and determination I believe they will excel beyond what they have already accomplished.

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