

Engineering Technology Forum
April 22-23, 2010
Florida State College at Jacksonville

General Summary

The 24th Engineering Technology Forum was hosted by the Florida State College at Jacksonville, on their downtown campus, at their Advanced Technology Center. Representatives from eleven state and community colleges, the Department of Education, and local industry attended and participated this year's spring Forum. Dr. Jim Simpson, Vice President, Workforce Development at FSCJ, welcomed the participants to the college and spoke about the need to increase the additional market share of graduates in our technology programs. Ernie Friend, Director Academic Systems, provided a brief overview of the ATC and the partnership with local industry. Brad Jenkins provided the agenda and topics of the Forum.

With the theme, Advancement in Engineering Technology, the main topics of the Forum included the discussion pertaining to the curriculum frameworks related to the Renewable/Alternative Energy Technology specialty, the updating of existing frameworks, and new program initiatives.

Brad Jenkins opened the Thursday morning session with an equipment demonstration from Southern Educational Systems (SES) and Lab Volt Systems. Keith Simpson gave a presentation on new products concerning alternative and renewable energy, including the Solar/Wind Energy Training System.

This demonstration led into a presentation by Sheryl Awtonomow, from Brevard CC, who provided an update on the final curriculum frameworks and course development for the Alternative Energy Technology specialty. This specialty will be offered at Brevard with several other colleges looking into that specialty under the Engineering Technology degree. The discussions relating to this session also provided information about the energy initiatives used in the construction industry, the role of the Florida Energy Center, and the energy career clusters.

Stan Sidor, VP, College of Engineering Technology, Daytona State College, provided the background and update concerning the bachelor degree program in Engineering Technology. Stan also remarked that it is essential for this state to maintain the articulated 2+2 programs in engineering technology. This program would be housed at the Advanced Technology Center and Daytona will also seek ABET accreditation for the BSET degree. Nasser Hedayat, Dean of Engineering, from Valencia CC, informed the forum that VCC will be offering the BSEET degree and as well as a BS degree in Cyber Security. Seminole State College will offer the BSIT degree.

The issues session provided an opportunity for the colleges to give an update on any new program initiatives and certificate development with reports from VCC, Brevard, Lake City, and Tallahassee. Martin Johnson, from FSCJ, reported that he is working on a 4 year degree program in engineering technology.

Brad Jenkins reported on the final approval related to the Discipline heading: Engineering Technologies with the different prefixes coming under that heading and the retention of the three coordinators by the SCNS. He remarked that the course number changes would

probably go in effect August 1, 2011, but he would contact the SCNS concerning the final approval and date.

Most all the colleges report steady enrollment or increased enrollment in their programs from this past year. New certificate programs and providing the different specializations under the Engineering Technology degree have contributed to this increase. Additional Forum discussion centered on the high school initiatives with Project Lead the Way.

After lunch, Ernie Friend provided a tour of the facilities and laboratories in the ATC building. He also provided an update on the programs housed in the center.

The afternoon vendor sessions included presentations from Andy Holloway SES, and Chris Etses, Moultrie Technical College, Tifton GA, on the Remote Automation Management Project (RAMP) and how HS students connect remotely to colleges. Rod Jaeger, Jaeger Corporation, and Kent Powell, from Amatrol, presented the Advanced Manufacturing Skills curriculum equipment and learning package delivery system.

Eric Owens, Florida Supervisor of Industrial Education, provided information on the process for updating the curriculum frameworks. He explained the development revision process provides that programs are to be updated every three years and this process will be driven by business and industry, inclusive to all stakeholders, comprehensive and consistent (3 year cycle), transparent, and on-going. He also explained that each career cluster has a steering committee, that provides oversight and approval, and a working group comprised of business/industry, trade associations, regional workforce boards, and community colleges. There was quite a bit of discussion in regards to the frameworks the methodology to bring them up to date. Many of the frameworks are in need of updating and one of the major questions asked was: Who is in charge of providing these framework changes? There are other problems that were identified such as: reporting from the colleges to the state for program deletions, reporting incorrect data, and who at the colleges is responsible for reporting or taking action.

The Friday morning session continued with the discussions concerning the frameworks and related questions about the process. Eric Owens reported that he is looking for input from all involved in this process and stated that the program committee does the review for the frameworks. Eric also provided the forum with a listing of all programs reported under Manufacturing and the colleges that have reported programs. Some of that data reported was not reliable from the colleges. After additional discussion, the members of the ET Forum agreed to be on this Program Committee and give a report at each Forum on the progress of the work. Several other action items included reviewing the manufacturing programs for the present frameworks and determining the currency of each and to also reviewing the programs being offered to see if they are still in use or valid. The committee will also contact their college staff to find out who is reporting the data and how to eliminate obsolete programs that are still being reported to the state as valid. The members of the ET forum agreed to identify two programs to be reviewed for updating the frameworks and cleaning up the program reports.

Eric Roe, from Polk State College, provided an update on the activities going on at the Banner Center for Manufacturing at Polk and he talked about the RFPs concerning the new Banner Centers.

Marilyn Barger, Executive Director of FLATE, updated the forum on the current FLATE activities including the process that the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)

uses for their Skill Certification System. She also provided information on how Florida is out front in aligning with industry certifications.

Marilyn provided an update map of the state indicating the 10 community colleges that have now implemented the Engineering Technology degree or will this fall and she also provided information on all the different specializations. Marilyn also presented the degree diagram indicating the certificate pathway with the MSSC certification and how this career pathway follows through with the AS degree and the associated specializations.

Marilyn provided an update for the 2010 FLATE awards for Manufacturing. The nominations are now open on the FLATE website. The awards will be presented at the Manufactures Association of Florida (MAF) Summit, November 4, 2010 in Orlando, during the president's banquet ceremony.

Marilyn mentioned that there will be five Summer Robotics Camps for this summer held in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties. She also reported that the Florida Trend NEXT magazine Advertorial for 2010 will be only page. Distribution to all high schools in Florida is approximately 750,000 copies and there were over 5000 responses from the 2009 advertorial.

The HI-TEC 2010 Conference will be held July 26-29, 2010, in Orlando There will be a social event to meet the Engineering Technology leadership here in Florida by having a mini ET Forum in the evening. It is important that we have a good showing.

The next Forum has been scheduled for the spring at Tallahassee Community College on either September 30-October 1 or October 7-8, 2011. More information on this date will be forthcoming.

Following the adjournment of the Forum at 12:00PM, the FL-ATE Manufacturing Technology Workshop, was held in the afternoon under the direction of Marilyn Barger.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Jenkins
St. Petersburg College
Chairman ET Forum