

Engineering Technology Forum
March 6-7, 2008
Pensacola Junior College

General Summary

The 20th Engineering Technology Forum was hosted by Pensacola Junior College. Representatives from eleven community colleges attended this year's spring Forum. Dr. Tom Delaino, President, PJC, welcomed the members to the college with Bob Pierce and Brad Jenkins providing the overview and agenda of the Forum.

The morning sessions concerning programs, industry involvement, and enrollment led to some interesting discussions centered on dual enrollment, tech prep, placement tests, restructuring of technical programs and recruitment strategies for both high schools and industries.

Terry Bartelt of Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton Wisconsin was invited to give a presentation on Enrollment and Recruitment Strategies. Terry is the Principle Investigator, for the Electromechanical Technology NSF Grant at Fox Valley, and his presentation was: 10 Ideas for Thinking Outside the Box. Terry covered techniques and strategies related to student inquiries, student tours, college partnerships, career counseling, retention ideas, relationships with industry, and course scheduling. The Forum attendees enjoyed Terry's presentation and many expressed an interest in using many of these strategies in their programs. Terry also explained the Fox Valley unique structure in course offerings and instructors teaching loads. In the afternoon Terry presented how learning objects can improve student retention. There are over 20 learning objects available for a variety of technical courses that can be used free at <http://wisc-online.com/bartelt>.

During lunch, Marilyn Barger, Executive Director of FLATE, updated the forum on the marketing of the new A.S. degree in Engineering Technology and also provided information on the middle school career & education planning from the DOE website. FLATE has developed two lesson plans and two models that are centered on manufacturing careers. Eric Roe, Director of FLATE, provided information on the Banner Centers and also included information related to the Florida Trend NEXT Manufacturing advertorials. Lenny Portell reported that he is proposing a Digital Media Banner Center for Seminole Community College.

After lunch, a tour of PJC's program areas and facilities, including the mechanical design and fabrication labs, was conducted by Mike Cannon.

In the afternoon Terry Bartelt presented how learning objects can improve student retention. There are over 20 learning objects available for a variety of technical courses that can be used free at <http://wisc-online.com/bartelt>. Terry gave a demonstration from the website and urged the use of these learning objects in the courses that are taught in the technology areas.

The vendor presentations included product updates and information from Jim Baggett, representing Technical Training Aids, Festo's Process Control Simulation, and Autodesk; Mark Kemper from EMS updating the 3D printers from Z-Corp; and David Richardson from Learning Labs.

After the vendor presentations, Brad Jenkins informed the forum that the EET discipline committee will meet to discuss the different courses and numbers and the consolidation of those numbers under the State Course Numbering System (SCNS), at Valencia CC, April 24-25. The review of the EET, CET, EST, and EEV numbers will be examined.

The Friday morning session included discussion topics related to student college email addresses, student on-line surveys, and advisory committee participation.

Lenny Portell reported on the Manufacturing Summit that was held in Tallahassee April 5. One of the main issues brought forward by industry was the lack of skill workers for the technical positions.

Additional Forum discussion on the issues centered on bachelor degree programs and the articulation of the A.S. degrees into BSET and BAS degree programs. Eric Roe also gave an update on the activities of the Manufacturing Association of Florida (MAF) had during the capital days in January.

Eric Owens, the state of Florida Supervisor of Industrial Education provided information on a number of state projects including the SUCCEED Florida Grants. Eric also provided updates on the new Industry Certification related to the MSSC Production Technician Certification for the articulation of the 15 college credit hours to the A.S. Degree in Engineering Technology. He presented this agreement package to the State Articulation Committee in February. There was language in the agreement that needed to be changed and he brought this to the attention of the Forum. Eric Roe made a motion to accept this new statement that "The Engineering Technology Support Specialist, College Credit Certificate may not be awarded based on articulated credit." The Forum unanimously approved this change in the agreement.

The fall Engineering Technology Forum will be held at Seminole Community College, September 25-26, 2008.

Following the adjournment of the Forum at 12:10PM, the FL-ATE Manufacturing Technology Workshop was held in the afternoon and conducted by Marilyn Barger. The participants reviewed the MSSC Standards and mapping process to the competencies in the six Engineering Technology Core courses.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Jenkins
St. Petersburg College
Co-Chairman ET Forum