

**Engineering Technology Forum**  
**October 4-5, 2007**  
**Brevard Community College**  
**General Summary**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Engineering Technology Forum was hosted by Brevard Community College in Palm Bay. Representatives from thirteen community colleges attended the fall Forum. Dr. Joe Smith, Provost, Palm Bay Campus, welcomed the members to Brevard CC with Brad Jenkins and Joanne Hutton providing the overview and agenda of the Forum.

With the main theme, the Review of the New Engineering Technology Curriculum, Brad Jenkins and Marilyn Barger, presented the state approved Engineering Technology curriculum and frameworks that were developed through the committees in the Manufacturing Technology Workshops this past year. This new program went into effect July 2007 and SPC, CFCC, FCCJ, and Brevard CC have approved this curriculum and are offering courses this fall. Several other colleges are expected to pick up this new curriculum for next year. Some of the major advantages of these frameworks allow for the flexibility to expand into new technologies and specialize with a minimum of credit hours. The technical core is also aligned with the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) Production Technician Certificate. This certificate is now a national standard and is being accepted by industry. Marilyn also remarked that a marketing plan and materials were being developed for this new Engineering Technology program. Other discussions focused on the articulation with the universities that have BSET programs and the consolidation of the EET and ETI State course Numbering System (SCNS).

In regards to enrollment and recruitment concerns, Chrys Panayiotou and Jose Farinos from Indian River CC, presented their new approach to increase enrollment in their Electronics program incorporating the photonics curriculum model. Much of the topic discussion centered on the perception and public image of electronics, the use of the term electronics, focusing on other marketing attempts to increase awareness and industry needs, competition from the private schools and training centers, program developments from other colleges, and hiring part time recruiters that understand the technical programs to go out to high schools.

Lunch, was sponsored by Harris Corporation and that was followed by a tour of Brevard's engineering/electronics and composite laboratories. Meer Almeer and Bruce Heshner gave a most interesting update of the facilities and the programs advances that are being offered.

The afternoon sessions involved vendors and began with Hulas King, representing Siemens PLM software, with a presentation on innovation and product improvement using their Unigraphics NX2 software tools. Vince Accardi, National Instruments, presented the latest version of Multisim and LabView with circuit simulation and instrumentation techniques. Prentice-Hall sponsored the afternoon break and continues to support the CAD programs with their new AutoDesk textbooks.

Gary Koser gave an update on the CAD discipline committee that met earlier in the fall to consolidate the ETD numbers for the AutoCAD and Solidworks courses.

The Friday morning session began with an industry round table panel that included members of the Brevard Advisory Committee, who addressed the program and hiring needs of the local industry in the Brevard county area. The Forum heard from Harris, Quality Electronic Manufactures, and Rockwell-Collins during this industry interface.

Additional Forum discussion in the morning centered on new certificate program development from the colleges, industry involvement, and enrollment trends around the state.

Eric Owens, the state of Florida Supervisor of Industrial Education presented an update on a number of state projects that are on-going including the new information on the 2007-08 SUCCEED Florida Grants, the Department of Education Workforce Education programs, and the Critical Jobs Initiative. There was also some discussion related to the Perkins Act and the definition of program completers. Eric was also recognized and thanked by FLATE for his fine help in the submission and approval process for the new curriculum frameworks related to the A.S. degree in Engineering Technology and the different certificates associated with this degree.

The Spring Engineering Technology Forum will be held at Pensacola Junior College, in March, 2008 and the fall 2008 Forum will be at Seminole Community College.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Jenkins  
St. Petersburg College  
Co-Chairman ET Forum