

Business Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Environmental Science Technology

December 9, 2015

9:30AM

Bioscience Technology Complex-Conference Room, SC201

ITEM 1. Introductions

Dr. Jessica Miles welcomed everyone and introduced new BPC member, Ashley Taylor: South Region Volunteer Coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Self-introductions and a brief description of each member's organization were given.

ITEM 2. PBSC Career Center Presentation – Amber Palomares

Amber Palomares gave a presentation highlighting the PBSC Career Center services that are available to employers and students. She stated that the Career Center can identify students by their major, career goals, and general interests. This enables Employers to target specific students for jobs and internships through job postings, emails, and on campus recruiting. The Career Center also hosts a Job Fair each fall. Employers are encouraged to set up a Business Profile with the Career Center and send their application early if they want to be included in the Job Fair. The Job Fair attracts approx. 50 employers and 750-1000 job seekers (students and community) each year. Amber also discussed the Career Mentor Network and the need for more Environmental Science career mentors. Mentors play an important role in helping undecided students learn more about different careers. Dr. Miles asked members how available positions are posted by their organizations. Members indicated that jobs for their organizations are posted to People First, a State of Florida HR website. Dr. Miles suggested finding ways to link their available positions to the PBSC Career Center website. Members were also encouraged to forward available opportunities directly to the Career Center or Dr. Miles so that we can notify students directly. Gloria Aldama Harmon, of the FI. Dept of Environmental Protection, stated that her organization has entry level positions coming up in the near future that would be perfect for recent graduates. She also discussed internships and indicated that they have two projects that would be excellent opportunities for PBSC Environmental Science students. They are also willing to take on a student that has their own project and assign a mentor to them. Ashley Taylor of the FWC discussed an upcoming project involving bat acoustic monitoring at Jonathan Dickinson State Park. She also has 50-60 volunteer opportunities available on January 16, 2016 for the FIU Python Challenge.

ITEM 3. Follow up from last meeting – Dr. Jessica Miles

- A. Dr. Miles- Program Goal #1 (ongoing), regarding the development of partnership opportunities between PBSC and SFWMD's Dupuis Management Area, is still in process. Gary Colecchio, who attended the May, 2015 BPC meeting, is still in communication with Dr. Miles. He indicated that a new bureau chief was recently hired and that managed land strategies are currently being revisited. Mr. Colecchio will contact Dr. Miles shortly, when they are ready to take the next step.
- B. Dr. Miles- Program Goal #2 (ongoing), regarding feasibility of training in 4WD handling, trailering, boat and airboat handling, has led to an understanding that this training will be difficult via partnership with public agencies; however, new contacts have been provided from the private sector that may prove fruitful. Dr. Miles will explore the opportunity further, as well as assess the liability and insurance needs. Several courses have been identified within the program that could incorporate this type of training.
- C. Lorri Corry -not present

- D. Natasha Warraich – not present, but provided information via email to be presented on her behalf. She provided opportunities for training for prescribed burning. She provided Dr. Miles with descriptions and dates of when this training occurs and how students can be involved. The full training is a week-long which may prove to be a major challenge for our students.
- E. Tara Bardi – not present

ITEM 4. Environmental Science Technology Program Course Curriculum Review – Dr. Jessica Miles

Dr. Miles reviewed EVS 2601 / Hazardous Materials and Environmental Air Quality and EVS2020 / Scientific Monitoring and Data Methods.

EVS 2601 / Hazardous Materials and Environmental Air Quality : An introduction to characteristics of hazardous materials; determination of work site hazards; understanding the Safety Diamond; using Material Safety Data Sheets; and HAZWOPER training. Also, an introduction to air quality, building materials, and hands-on laboratory work in air and waste sampling.

EVS2020 / Scientific Monitoring and Data Methods: Basic computer literacy including spreadsheet, database, word processing, PowerPoint, e-mail, and interpretation of charts, graphs, and maps and the use of the metric system of measurement also included.

Both classes provide hands-on work-force training, and the skill sets needed to enter the work force upon graduation. Dr. Miles also indicated that there are internal discussions of the possibility of eliminating the Algebra requirement, adding Statistics in its place, since it is more applicable to the work students will be doing out in the field.

ITEM 5. Proposal to pursue certificates – Dr. Jessica Miles

Dr. Miles proposed two curriculum changes for the Environmental Science Technology AS Program. The proposed change would include adding two CCC's to the program.

Hazardous Materials Specialist CCC: Involves the grouping of four core courses (EVS 2601 Hazardous Materials and Environmental Air Quality, EVR 2858 Environmental Law, EVS 2020 Scientific Monitoring and Data Methods, and EVS 2193C Environmental Sampling Techniques)

Environmental Science Technician CCC: Involves the grouping of numerous core and general education courses.

A CCC would serve as a stepping stone, keeping students on the path to receiving their AS degree while giving them marketable environmental specific training early on. In addition to this the CCCs would be recognized on a student's resume, providing them work-force readiness prior to completing the program. Gloria Aldama Harmon, of the FI. Dept of Environmental Protection, stated that her organization recognizes the need for hazardous materials specialists who are trained and certified.

A vote was taken and all members were in favor of adding both of the proposed CCCs to the Environmental Science Technology degree program.

ITEM 6. Business etiquette and networking skills training videos – Dr. Jessica Miles

Dr. Miles purposed the idea of developing a business etiquette and networking skills training video. The video would be geared toward environmental students that would like to participate in internships. The council will seek suggestions from Business Partners of specific topics/ hit points to be included in the video(s). Dr. Bob Van Der Velde suggested collaborating with other programs to create the video. All BPC Members agreed that the video would be a valuable tool for students seeking internships and job opportunities.

ITEM 7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Attendance: Ms. Gloria Aldama Harmon, Ms. Ashley Taylor
Guests – Dr. Bob Van Der Velde, Ms. Amber Palomares
Dr. Jessica Miles; Chair

Submitted by: *Jessica Miles* Department Chair

Brenda Lesser; Scribe