

Palm Beach State College

**Business Partnership Council Meeting Minutes
Environmental Science Technology**

May 5, 2016

2:00 pm

Bioscience Technology Complex - Conference Room, SC 201

ITEM 1: Introductions

Dr. Jessica Miles welcomed all committee members and guest, Sandy Smith, student of the Environmental Science Technology program.

ITEM 2: Follow –up from last meeting – Dr. Jessica Miles

- A. Career Mentors and Job Listings - Dr. Miles gave a brief overview of the previous meeting's guest presentation from the Career Center at PBSC and followed up with BPC members regarding their communications with Amber Palomares to become Career Mentors and to link their organization's jobs to our website. Various council members will respond to one or both of those requests and have the contacts to complete that task.
- B. Program Goal #1 (Postponed) – Regarding the development of a partnership between PBSC and SFWMD's Dupuis Management Area. Dr. Miles had been informed of a new Bureau Chief and the need to wait until the completion of a new land management plan. Dr. Miles will email BPC member Laura Corry for the contact information for the new Chief and cc: BPC member Ashley Taylor, since FWC coordinates activities on this site as well.
- C. Program Goal #2 (Ongoing with progress) - Regarding the feasibility of training in ATV's, 4WD handling, trailering, boat and airboat handling. Dr. Miles reported on the successful establishment of a private sector vendor to carry out airboat and trailering training for our students. Their background, skills, equipment, and certification descriptions were shared with the BPC members. Dr. Miles reported on her request for an increase in her departmental budget to allow for this training to proceed. BPC members were very supportive of this development. BPC member, Natasha Warraich, also shared that the Parks will now allow for ATV training classes including a certificate of completion. Our students must first sign up as Park volunteers but will now have an opportunity for this kind of training. She also shared a website for a free online boater safety course that students could and should complete for certification. BPC member Ashley Taylor agreed with this suggestion

and mentioned she had to complete the course herself for FWC. Students will be encouraged to complete this online course in the future.

- D. Report on the addition of two new College Credit Certificates for the program – Dr. Miles reported that all paperwork was submitted and approved for the addition of the Hazardous Materials Specialist College Credit Certificate and the Environmental Science Technician CCC and indicated that, after the May 10, 2016 BOT meeting, advertising will commence as well as approval to existing students who have already met the requirements. All BPC members were supportive of this progress and felt that it would be a great advantage for our students.

Item 3: New Business

- A. New College President Ava Parker was discussed, with information presented about Jessica Miles' meeting with her regarding BPC format and processes. Gifts from President Parker were presented.
- B. For three of our members (Laura, Natasha, and Tara) this meeting leads to the completion of their service as a 2-year member of the business partnership council to the Environmental Science Technology program. Recommendations of other members who could be invited to join on their behalf was discussed. Natasha Warraich shared that she is the sole representative that can attend. Laura Corry shared that she will look in to the possibility of an HR representative from the SFWMD to attend; however, she is the assigned person for this role. Tara Bardi shared some organizational changes for the Arthur Marshall Foundation for the Everglades, leaving the recommendation for an alternate BPC member up in the air at this time. Jessica Miles indicated that she will welcome members that are willing to continue to serve as well as work to recruit some new faces for the next council meeting for her Program Goal #4.
- C. Jessica Miles shared that the College has a class going to Costa Rica this summer for Tropical Ecology, and BPC member Tara Bardi indicated her support of this opportunity for our students and also showed an interest in participating in this class and even teaching part of it.

Item 4: BPC member updates

- D. Laura Corry – the SFWMD has several summer internship opportunities (paid). Each department indicates their need and

develops their own job description. Students are encouraged to apply online. Jessica Miles indicated that some of the students have already applied and been accepted for this great opportunity.

- E. Natasha Warrach – the prescribed burn courses (S130 and S190) are held during Spring Break and also require a pack test. This is a free opportunity that our students could attend. Internships (unpaid) are year round and students can contact her to apply. Americorps will offer classes on invasive plant removal, and if students are accepted to Americorps, housing expenses can be covered by living at the Park. A Nov. 4th Research Day at the Park will be new this year, and PBSC students will show their research posters. Natasha described the two poster projects on display that featured work completed by two PBSC interns during the spring 2016 semester (one on Red Cockaded Woodpeckers and the other on roadkill data).
- F. Tara Bardi – the passing of John Marshall was discussed and his environmental contributions appreciated. The organization will merge with another, and public announcements will be made to the media. The summer internship program will continue, and it will be 10 weeks long this year. There will also be the formation of a more public-oriented Everglades and sea level rise focused symposium. Jessica Miles hopes students could be involved with this. Tara Bardi also inquired about the possibility of setting up an Everglades-focused course that could include regional field trips in the future.
- G. Ashley Taylor – job openings may increase in the near future and students should keep an eye on People First which can automatically send them emails about openings in their field of interest. She has more fieldwork available, but it is still more Broward county oriented. She will also include Jessica Miles on future volunteer requests sent by email. She also indicated that a python training course could be administered within one of our classes and certificates awarded to our students. Jessica Miles will pursue this for next spring's wildlife ecology class.
- H. Gloria Aldama Harmon – shared process changes in internship application submissions that resulted in fewer applicants than in the past. Three summer interns will be hosted (unpaid); however, there are year-round opportunities.

Item 5: Field trip to research dock on campus. Program student, Sandy Smith, led a sampling demonstration. BPC members were very supportive of this great outdoor learning classroom and suggested additional learning opportunities that could occur there.

Item 6: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Attendance: Ms. Tara Bardi, Ms. Laura R.H. Corry, Mrs. Gloria Aldama Harmon, Mrs. Ashley Taylor, Ms. Natasha Warraich
Guests – Mrs. Sandy Smith, Environmental Science Program Student
Dr. Jessica Miles, Chair

Submitted by: Dr. Jessica Miles, Department Chair