

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE
Biotechnology Program Business Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2014 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Palm Beach Gardens Campus – SC201

ITEM 1. *Welcome/Introductions*

Discussion: Dr. Becky Mercer thanked BPC members for their support of the program. All members introduced themselves and new members were welcomed to the council. Dr. Mercer reviewed the role of the BPC and stressed that the goal of council is to focus on the specific curricular, equipment, and staffing needs of the PBSC Biotechnology Program outreach to local high schools, and maintaining a strong internship program. Dr. Mercer introduced new Biotechnology Lab Specialist Edison Mejia to the group. Several current students and recent graduates were also in attendance.

Dr. Jean Wihbey, Provost of the Eissey campus, thanked the BPC members for their commitment to the College, and presented an overview of the importance of industry-education relationships and collaboration in creating a strong workforce.

Dr. Alexandra Gorgevska presented an overview of program curriculum, as there are many new members, including high school teachers and administrators and new biotech industry partners.

Action: None.

ITEM 2. *Discussion of Partner Employment Needs*

Discussion: Dr. Mercer invited members to discuss their needs in hiring skilled employees. Members presented needs in technical writing, bioinformatics, and record-keeping; GLP/GMP, working in QC (FDA level), SBIR, marketing, waste disposal, and small molecule research were also discussed. Feedback was positive about PBSC graduates having solid knowledge in molecular biology and aseptic techniques. BPC industry members stressed that graduates must have a sense of accountability and the importance of deadlines; also that 15-25% of their time as an industry employee will be spent documenting practices (“if it isn’t written down, it didn’t happen”)

Members from our local high schools discussed connecting high school curricula to a pathway to college. Trends in high school science education were discussed. Teachers requested more hands-on visits to the Biotech labs to make connections and show the application of textbook concepts.

Action: BPC suggested that it would help students to “highlight a career” to give college students better insights into the day-to-day. In addition, high school BPC members think it would be helpful for high school students to see videos of college students in class/describing their time management and study skills.

ITEM 3. *STEAM Luncheon & Fundraising*

Discussion: Dr. Mercer presented BPC members with an opportunity to financially support student scholarships and the program through the STEAM luncheon to be held at the Kravis Center on February 6, 2015 (Neil deGrasse Tyson, speaker). Members can purchase ads in the program booklet as well as table seats for students.

Action: BPC members to consider investing funds to attend or sponsor the STEAM event.

Next council meeting: April 2015

Attendance

Title	First	Last	Position	Affiliation	Attended?
Dr.	Rina	Dukor	President & CEO	Biotoools	N
Dr.	Dawn	Johnson	Sr. Director of Scientific Operations	Scripps Florida Research Institute	N
Ms.	Deborah	Leach-Scampavia	Director of Education & Outreach	Scripps Florida Research Institute	N
Ms.	Lyn	Slygh	Biotech Academy	Seminole Ridge High School	N
Dr.	Claudia	Zylberberg	President & CEO	Akron Biotech	Y
Ms.	Jeannette G.	Dailey	Regulatory Affairs Manager	DePuy Synthes Power Tools	N
Mr.	James C.	Campbell	Principal,	Seminole Ridge Community High School	N
Ms.	Mira	Dhond	Biotech Teacher	Palm Beach Lakes High School	Y
Mr.	Adrian	Seepersaud	Assistant Principal	Palm Beach Lakes High School	Y
Mr.	Sean	Mandat	Scientific Sales Rep,	Thermo Fisher Scientific	N
Dr.	Liton	Roy	Scientific Manager	Sancilio & Company	Y
Dr.	Chris	Dougherty	Senior Manager, Clinical Sciences	Biotest	Y
Dr.	Catherine	Pachuk	Chief Scientific Officer	Somahlution	N
Dr.	Ana	Fiallos	Head of Education Outreach	Max Planck Institute for Neuroscience	Y
Mr.	Eric	Edwards	Biology teacher	Palm Beach Gardens High School,	Y
Ms.	Karen	Walter	Science Teacher	Dwyer High School	N
Dr.	Muctarr	Sesay	VP Process Development	Goodwin Biotechnology	Y
Mr.	Pierre	Baillargeon	Compound Engineer	Scripps Florida Research Institute	Y
Dr.	Cecelia	Crouse	Crime Laboratory Director	Palm Beach County Sherriff's Office	N
Ms.	Julie	Sikorsky	Crime Laboratory Manager	Palm Beach County Sherriff's Office	N
Ms.	Julie	Wilkinson	Managing Partner, COO	ImmunoSite Technologies	Y
Dr.	David	Willoughby	Owner, Manager	Ocean Ridge Biosciences	Y
Dr.	Jean	Wihbey	Provost	PBSC, Eissey Campus	Y
Dr.	Alexandra	Gorgevska	Dept Chair	PBSC Biotech	Y
Dr	Becky	Mercer	Dir.	PBSC Biotech & STEM Ed	Y

Submitted by:

Becky Mercer, Scribe