

# Palm Beach State College

## Business Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

### Environmental Science Technology

December 3, 2014

10:00 am

Bioscience Technology Complex - Conference Room, SC 201

**ITEM 1:** Introductions

Dr. Jessica Miles welcomed all new committee members. Self introductions and a brief description of each member's organization were given.

**ITEM 2:** Business Partnership Council Roles and Recognition – Dr. Jessica Miles

Dr. Miles gave a brief history of the program from its beginning in 2001 as a means for students to learn the necessary skills that would enable them to work on Everglades Restoration. Dr. Miles told members that the committee meets two times per year, once in fall and again in the spring semesters, and requires a two-year commitment. Members are asked to participate in various aspects of promoting the program and partnering with the college and our students.

**ITEM 3:** Environmental Science Program History and Purpose – Dr. Jessica Miles

Dr. Miles indicated that the program has continued to expand and now has a group of eleven adjuncts teaching a curriculum of sixteen courses with fifty-seven declared students. Additionally, the program also has a dual enrollment component located at Jupiter Community High School. These high school students are recruited to continue in the program once they have graduated from Jupiter High School. Dr. Miles also told members that Palm Beach State College environmental science AS degrees will now transfer to Broward State College, where students can complete a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science.

**Item 4:** Environmental Science Curriculum Overview – Dr. Jessica Miles

Dr. Miles presented the current Environmental Science Technology A.S. Degree Curriculum Requirements and discussed the various courses needed to complete the program. Members commented on the on the number, diversity and quality of the program's courses.

**Item 5/6:** Members Agencies, scope of careers and employment trends, internships

Susie Nuttall, FWC – For most positions a four-year degrees is necessary at this point, such as biology majors. Student volunteer positions are available for any degree level. There are some entry level positions available that our students could apply for, such as a deer count position, and applications are taken in June, with a work start date in August. Paid internships are with UF only at this time. May be possibility of partnering with Palm Beach State in the future, and Susie will explore this possibility.

Susie is the volunteer coordinator and contact, and she reviews applicants for the entry-level positions.

Laura Corry, SFWMD – Four-year degrees are required for scientific positions. Internships would be open to our students but requirements, positions, and start dates have been variable over the years, but Laura will check with the agency and departments regarding positions as they stand now, so our students can apply.

Natasha Warraich, Jonathan Dickinson State Park – Four-year degrees are required for most positions. Some Ranger positions would be available for two-year degree students. There are many volunteer positions available for our students, and internships are welcome, with an already established partnership with PBSC that has existed over many years. The Park supports the Americorps program with several position openings at the Park that our students could apply for (one PBSC Environmental Science graduate already held a position in 2014). The agency also has classes such as; fire S130 & S190 (for prescribed burns), trailering, and ATV that may be open to PBSC interns. Natasha will continue to communicate with PBSC about the classes that our students can participate in and announcements will be shared via the department chair (Dr. Miles).

Bob Van Der Velde, Associate Dean PBSC – Bob supports the idea of going to the various agencies and speaking to their volunteers regarding our Environmental Science program and our course offerings. This can be accomplished through the Department Chair and via the BPC member's support.

Tara Bardi, Arthur Marshall Foundation for the Everglades – The agency currently has an eleven-week paid internship for five graduate students over the age of twenty-one. There may be a possibility of adding some type of "Mini Internship" for Palm Beach State students. (PBSC requires 8 hrs per week for the semester long internship course). Tara will explore the possibility of opening up an internship program for our students and commends the focused science-based curriculum currently being offered to our students. Tara believes that based on the courses currently offered, our students are likely receiving an educational base that is equivalent or even better than some of the course work completed by graduate students who may have a more liberal arts base to their program, versus a scientific base.

**Item 7:** Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:05am.

**Attendance:** Ms. Susie Nuttall, Ms. Tara Bardi, Ms. Natasha Warraich, Professor Elsa Krauss, Associate Dean Robert Van Der Velde, Ms. Laura R.H. Corry  
Dr. Jessica Miles, Chair

Submitted by: Dr. Jessica Miles, Department Chair

Patricia Castro, Scribe