



Business Partnership Council Meeting Minutes
Interior Design Program

March 17, 2016
Lake Worth Campus

ITEM 1 – Do council members support offering a Residential Interior Design credit certificate?

Discussion:

The main goal for exploring a certificate program is to provide a less costly and shorter educational program to students who are interested in working exclusively as residential interior designers. The Residential Interior Design credit certificate would follow the current DOE CCC framework of 39 credits which are part of the AS Interior Design degree program.

Joseph Cortes, Nancy Albert and Janine Knight support the idea of a CCC in Residential Interior Design stating that a CCC would bring more students and give them another option. Mr. Cortes noted that the credits for the proposed certificate cover the basics and that it offers another venue for people to get into the profession; once in the program, they can determine where they want to take their professional carriers.

Rhonda Grammer and Georgia Merten do not support the offering of a certificate. Ms. Grammar stated that all designers should practice as professionals and to encourage less than an AS program would dilute our professionalism. Ms. Merten stated that the profession is flooded with designers who have a flair for design but have never received any formal training. Ms. Merten added that Palm Beach State should stress the importance of a proper education in Interior Design in the form of an AS program at a minimum, as it is required for licensing.

Prof. Espinosa commented that only commercial interior designers need to be licensed in order to practice in the State of Florida. Anyone could practice residential interior design, with or without a license or training. A certificate program would serve as a stepping stone keeping students on the path to receiving their AS degree while offering the foundation and training necessary to practice residential interior design.

Action:

A majority was in favor of the proposal to offer a certificate program.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Attendance: Rhonda Grammer, Nancy Albert, Georgia Merten, Janine Knight, Joseph Cortes, and Zenaida Espinosa

Submitted by: Zenaida Espinosa, Scribe