

**PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE**  
**Biotechnology Program Business Partnership Council Meeting**  
**Minutes**

November 17, 2015 5:30pm – 7:00pm  
*Palm Beach Gardens Campus – SC201*

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***Welcome/ Introductions***

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 is to focus on the specific curricular, equipment, and staffing needs of the PBSC Biotechnology Program outreach to local high schools and industry, and maintaining a strong internship program. Please be aware of the following initiatives.

**ITEM 1: Update on the conversion of the Biotech Program to a “Controlled Access” program.**

Biotechnology Department Chair Dr. Alexandra Gorgevska explained the transition from Open Access to a Controlled Access program. The *majority* of declared Biotechnology students (AS, 2158) never take a single biotechnology core course, leaving the College as “non-completers” which negatively impacts program completion and retention rates. We have addressed this issue by converting the Biotechnology AS degree program to a Controlled Access program as of this Fall term. Requirements for admission to the program include:

- GPA of 2.6
- Have passed the following courses with a C or better:

BSC1010 Principles of Biology 1 (3 credits)
BSC1010 Principles of Biology 1 Lab (1 credit)
CHM1045 General Chemistry 1 (3 credits)
CHM1045L General Chemistry 1 Lab (1 credit)
MAC1105 College Algebra (3 credits)
ENC1101 College Composition (3 credits)
BSC2421 Introduction to Biotechnology (3 credits)
BSC2421L Introduction to Biotechnology Lab (2 credits)

Students who do not meet the above criteria cannot enroll in the program. The program has begun tracking students’ attendance at mandatory information sessions, and recruiting.

**ITEM 2: Creation of a “Biotech Career Marketplace” to post local jobs and resumes.**

**Discussion.** PBSC plans to work with the campus Career Center to increase the participation of life science employers in the Career Center’s employer and Mentor database. Dr. Mercer will follow-up with partners regarding their participation.

**ITEM 3: GMP/GLP Training and 30-credit (1-year) Biotech Certificate**

**Discussion:** The Biotechnology Program will investigate creation of a 30-credit certificate for students to complete in half the time it takes for the Associates degree. The framework already exists in the Florida DOE website. This certificate option will increase opportunities for students to learn hands-on laboratory skills, while boosting completion rates for the program. The program will also investigate creating for-credit GMP/GLP training in order to offer a certificate in this in-demand training. Industry partners were strongly in favor of creation of this program.

**ITEM 4: Creation of articulation agreements to 4-year universities (AS to BS: UM, UF, Nova, FAU).**

**Discussion:** We are currently in talks with several universities to explore whether the coursework for the Biotech AS degree will be accepted for transfer to 4-year schools. Currently, the AA (Associates in Arts, no major declared) serves as our College’s transfer option. 67% of students at PBSC are pursuing an AA degree for transfer. However, this leaves our AS students with additional course requirements for transfer.

As a result, we are in talks with several schools (FAU, Nova, FIU, UM, UF) to determine how PBSC Biotech AS students (and other programs, as appropriate) can transfer as juniors to these universities (primarily as Biological Sciences, Biochemistry, or related life science majors). We are also interested in promoting the Biotech program to pre-med students in future.

**ITEM 5: 6-week summer internship for high school students.**

**Discussion:** The program has run (for the past 2 years) a summer research internship for high school students. This program will be expanded, and the criteria for acceptance have been posted.

<http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/biotechnology/internship-opportunities/highschool.aspx>

**ITEM 6: Videos of business partner facilities.**

**Discussion:** The program appreciates that tours can often be time-consuming for the industry partner. In partnership with the COlege’s MTIS (Media) Department, and with the Palm Beach County STEM Council, the Biotechnology Program will begin reaching out to partners to film videos of tours and staff interviews on site at the business partner labs and sites. Showing the videos in classrooms, and as homework assignments will allow a greater reach to all PBC School District students and can be used to market the County to prospective life science businesses looking to relocate to PBC.

Meeting was adjourned, followed by lab tour and further networking.

Title	First	Last	Position	Affiliation	Attended?
<b>Special Guests</b>					
Dr.	Robin	Krueger	Process Scientist	Ocean Ridge Biosciences	Y
Mr.	Darius	Robinson	Assistant Principal	Palm Beach Lakes High School	Y
Dr.	John	Paleos	Executive Director Business Development	SureBiochem Laboratories, LLC	Y
Dr.	Louis	Scampavia	Director, HTS	Scripps Florida	Y
Dr.	Tod	Fairbanks	Professor	PBSC	Y
Dr.	Robert	Van Der Velde	Associate Dean	PBSC	Y
Mr.	Edison	Mejia	Lab Specialist	PBSC	Y
<b>BPC Members</b>					
Dr.	Rina	Dukor	President & CEO	Biotools	N
Ms.	Deborah	Leach-Scampavia	Director of Education & Outreach	Scripps Florida Research Institute	Y
Ms.	Lyn	Slygh	Biotech Academy	Seminole Ridge High School	N
Dr.	Claudia	Zylberberg	President & CEO	Akron Biotech	N
Ms.	Nikole	Rozon	Mgr, Client Services, Education Partnerships	CareerSource of PBC	Y
Mr.	James C.	Campbell	Principal,	Seminole Ridge High School	N
Ms.	Mira	Dhond	Biotech Teacher	Palm Beach Lakes High School	Y
Mr.	Adrian	Seepersaud	Assistant Principal	Palm Beach Lakes High School	N
Mr.	Sean	Mandat	Scientific Sales Rep,	Thermo Fisher Scientific	N
Dr.	Liton	Roy	Scientific Manager	Sancilio & Company	N
Dr.	Chris	Dougherty	Senior Manager, Clinical Sciences	Biotest	N
Dr.	Catherine	Pachuk	Chief Scientific Officer	Somahlution	N
Dr.	Ana	Fiallos	Head of Education Outreach	Max Planck Institute for	N

				Neuroscience	
Mr.	Eric	Edwards	Biology teacher	Palm Beach Gardens High School,	N
Ms.	Karen	Walter	Science Teacher	Dwyer High School	N
Dr.	Muctarr	Sesay	VP Process Development	Goodwin Biotechnology	N
Mr.	Pierre	Baillargeon	Compound Engineer	Scripps Florida Research Institute	N
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	N
Dr.	Alexandra	Gorgevska	Dept Chair, Biotech/Natural Sciences	PBSC	Y
Dr	Becky	Mercer	Dir., Biotech & STEM Ed	PBSC	Y

**Next council meeting:** Thursday, April 7, 2016

Submitted by: Becky Mercer, scribe.