

Business Partnership Council Meeting Minutes

Environmental Science Technology

May 10, 2018

9:00am

BioScience Technology Complex – SC201

ITEM 1 *Guest/ Member Introductions*

Dr. Jessica Miles welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Business Partnership Council (BPC) members and guests to introduce themselves. Attending members and guests included:

Dr. David Serrano, Broward College

Ms. Andrea Pereyra, South Florida Region Volunteer Coordinator, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Ms. Phyllis Mills, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Ms. Rachael Rossmeyssl-Stone, Eco Advisors LLC

Dr. Rachel Harris, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Wildpine Laboratory, Loxahatchee River District

Mrs. Gloria Aldama Harmon, Environmental Protection Agency, Southeast Area Office

Ms. Sara Corvil, Program Grant Manager InnovATE, Palm Beach State College

ITEM 2. *InnovATE Grant (Sara Corvil)*

Sara Corvil discussed the project goals and strategies of the 3-year National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education Grant. The goal of the project focuses on increasing graduates in STEM disciplines, particularly underrepresented minorities and women. This is in response to the local demand for highly skilled workforce needs in the manufacturing, aerospace, engineering and power industries. Strategies included increasing enrollment and awareness through local outreach, decreasing the time to degree completion, and increasing student retention and degree completion by providing supplemental instructors. These strategies will improve the educational pathways for EPT and ET A.S. graduates to continue their education. Ms. Corvil stated that since fall 2016, enrollment in the Engineering Tech and Electrical Power Technology Programs have increased an average of 45% effective fall 2017 and spring 2018 semesters. This was in part due to the InnovATE grant hosting numerous outreach events promoting the ET and EPT programs. The grant ends 12-31-18. Ms. Corvil is currently working on an articulation agreement to ease transfer from our A.S. Electrical Power Technology program to the B.S. Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology program at Valencia College.

ITEM 3 *Follow up from last meeting and setting of new 2018-2019 program goals*

Dr. Miles updated the committee on the previously agreed upon program goals for 2017-2018. 1) A programmatic commercial was successfully developed, and it focused on Dr. Miles' sabbatical work, a.k.a. The Reef Hope Project. The video was shown to the 500+ crowd attending the College's Annual STEAM event. There is an agreement to follow up with a documentary style film in the near future, as various projects develop. This commercial link will be shared with the committee. 2) Dr. Miles also discussed the goal of development of a full-program research study. She discussed several of the multicourse, multidisciplinary project ideas that have emerged because of the Reef Hope Project and because of a partnership with the Jupiter Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area. The proposed projects will provide a cross-circular overlap between environmental science classes and other disciplines such as Art, Biotechnology, and Engineering Technology, as well as involve multiple A.S. Environmental Science degree courses.

Dr. Miles presented new program goals for 2018-2019 for committee approval. 1) She stated that she would like to build up the adjunct pool and have more daytime instructors available to teach dual enrollment classes in partnership with Jupiter Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy. Several committee members agreed to explore their network of professionals to assist in increasing this daytime adjunct pool, and they agreed to help fulfill this goal by passing on contact information to these potential adjuncts to Dr. Miles or vice versa. 2) In addition to this, now that funding is in place, she would like to move forward and successfully create and deploy the interdisciplinary EcoArt project. This project will be completed in collaboration with the Environmental Science program, Engineering Technology program, and Art Dept. Students will learn new skills that will enable them to solve problems and overcome obstacles while simultaneously benefitting the marine environment. This goal will be initiated in fall 2018.

ITEM 4 *New Business*

Dr. Miles gave an update of the Internship Presentation Night held on April 30, 2018. Student research posters were displayed in the conference room for BPC members to view. She also updated the BPC council on student airboat certification, ATV training, and drone work.

Dr. David Serrano gave an update on his program, Bachelor's in Environmental Science graduate statistics, and new Insect Museum, with which the PBSC Environmental Science Dept. can collaborate. He stated that there was a hold up with the articulation agreement as his new college President was selected, but he hopes to have the agreement to the board mid-summer and intends to work with us to increase the length of time between reinstating the agreement because things are moving along successfully.

Ms. Phyllis Mills discussed Americorp opportunities and paid position openings with 2 field positions, 2 at the district, and 2 in Stuart. They are currently looking for 2 volunteers that would come in weekly through the summer and fall to work in the native plant garden. Dr. Miles thanked her for the ATV training and certifications they provided to Environmental Science students, as well as for hosting a departmental intern this past spring term. Ms. Mills also agreed to put in a suggestion of aligning the prescribed burn training event for the Spring Break week at PBSC.

Ms. Andrea Pereyra went over the paid (check station operator positions at Corbett and Hungryland and Technician in Clewiston) and volunteer opportunities available through the FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. She suggested that A.S. students continue with their education and pursue a Bachelor's degree to open up more employment opportunities to them. Dr. Miles thanked her for hosting a departmental intern this past spring. Service volunteers are currently needed for the Iguana project and an email is forthcoming that can be used to market for this volunteer opportunity. Dr. Miles agreed to send it out to the departmental students.

Mrs. Gloria Aldama-Harmon stated that they have had to cut back on internship opportunities for the time being because they recently hired several new full-time employees. She also suggested communicating with their Coral Reef Outreach Coordinator, Shelby, as a resource for collaboration. She was also pleased to see the integration of the full 40-hour HAZWOPER certification course into our program.

Dr. Rachel Harris is currently the only lead scientist on staff at the Wildpine Lab, and her duties have been focused on research, which limits the amount of internship oversight that they have. However, a few of the current internship opportunity flyers were shared for distribution to the department. There should be more internship opportunities in fieldwork this upcoming spring. PBSC may also collaborate with the Loxahatchee River District on drone work for sea grass or oyster reef monitoring. Dr. Harris was also interested in the Reef Hope Project ARMS work with her background in benthic species, so future collaboration on this project is expected.

Ms. Rachael Rossmeissl-Stone discussed her company's requirements for entry-level employees and shared a current job opportunity that would be available to the PBSC Environmental Science students. She reiterated the importance of the 40-hr HAZWOPER and Asbestos certifications and hands-on experience with soil and water testing. She thinks that other similar consulting firms would be interested in using Palm Beach State College for certifying their employees, and she will collaborate with Dr. Miles on looking into this further. She also mentioned another idea for students who have completed their Plants of South Florida class, which is to complete their Certified Arborist training.

ITEM 5 *Miscellaneous*

Dr. Miles discussed the closing of the Summer Math and Science Institute. The Costa Rica Summer Course will not be offered this year due to a problem securing a reasonably-priced, US-based company.

Earth Day and our Earth Talks went well, speakers were well-received, and over 500 students were actively involved with Earth Day presenters. BPC members were encouraged to contact Dr. Miles, if their organizations are interested in hosting a table next year for the April 2019 event.

OTHER

The meeting adjourned at 10:20am

Submitted by: _____ Jessica Miles _____

