

**Business Partnership Council Meeting Minutes***Environmental Science Technology**December 14, 2016**9:30 am**BioScience Technology Complex – Conference Room, SC201***ITEM 1** *Guest/ Member Introductions*

Dr. Jessica Miles welcomed everyone and had attending Business Partnership Council (BPC) members and guests introduce themselves. New members of the Environmental Science Technology BPC are: **Ms. Andrea Pereyra**, South Region Volunteer Coordinator, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, **Dr. David Serrano**, Broward College Environmental Science, **Mrs. Lourdes Woytek**, Human Resources Manager, South Florida Water Management District, and **Betsy Stoner, Ph.D.**, Senior Scientist, Wildpine Laboratory, Loxahatchee River District. Returning Members include; **Natasha Warraich**, Park Services Specialist, Jonathan Dickinson State Park and **Gloria Aldama Harmon**, Department of Environmental Protection

ITEM 2. *Student Activities Presentation*

Sherry McFadden; Palm Beach Gardens campus, Student Activities Specialist gave a presentation on how the Student Activities Department works to enrich the lives of Palm Beach State College Students through specific activities and clubs. Ms. McFadden stated that students that are involved in campus life have higher graduation / completion rates. Activities related to Environmental Science are gateways for students to learn more about our Earth and how to protect and appreciate it. Activities include field trips to the Loxahatchee River to bike, explore, and canoe; the roof top garden located on the roof top of the Lewis Center Building (a collaborative project that included the Art Alliance club which provided ceramics and murals and the Community Earth Club that maintains the garden); the annual Earth Day events which include Earth Talks and a festival atmosphere on campus that is widely attended. This year Earth Day festivities will be held on April 20, 2017, and Dr. Miles invited members interested in hosting a table or talk for the Earth Day Event to contact her. A different theme is chosen each year, this year's theme will be "gardening".

ITEM 3 *Follow up from last meeting*

Dr. Jessica Miles, who has been the Environmental Science Technology Chairperson for 13 years discussed student demographics and goals of the program. She stated that the program has approximately 130 declared students, many of these students are seeking a new career path and attend part time. The program runs a majority of their classes at night. These classes are taught by Environmental Science specialists and other professionals. There are currently more job positions available than graduates to fill them. Dr. Miles thanked the BPC for their support in voting approval of the new Hazardous Materials Specialist CCC and Environmental Science Technician CCC which became available for declaration fall 2016. Students have the opportunity to earn both CCC's while earning their AS degree. Dr. Miles stated that the certificates are a stepping stone to the AS degree and help lead to student success in the program. Additionally, Dr. Miles thanked the BPC for their vote of support in seeking "hands on training" in areas such as airboat, ATV and 4WD handling. Dr. Miles reported that a budget increase had been granted and an airboat training contractor secured. Select students will complete this training in fall 2016 earning a Dept. of Interior training certificate. Additionally, students have been encouraged to complete the online boating safety course from boatus.org. Students also have an opportunity for ATV training through Jonathan Dickinson State Park, and Dr. Miles is grateful for this partnership.

Dr. Miles discussed partnering with members to help train students and provide internship and volunteering opportunities. Betsy Stoner stated that the Loxahatchee District offers a Boating Safety course at the River Center which students could attend. Natasha Warraich stated that Jonathan Dickinson State Park will continue to arrange ATV training for students, usually once every 6 months, and will specifically target PBSC student interns for the training but other students could also attend. Natasha also stated that there are several volunteer opportunities that are available at the park.

ITEM 4 *New Business*

- A. Dr. Miles discussed two new program goals. #1 The development of a programmatic commercial to promote the program. A commercial and social media blasts would help to promote the program and assist in recruiting. The members agreed that this would be a good idea and approved Dr. Miles' pursuit of this recruitment project. Action: Dr. Miles will partner with Media Technology Services on the campus to write and produce this program recruitment commercial with the goal of completion in 1 years' time.
#2 The development of a full program research study (integrating at least 3 program courses). Dr. Miles stated that she would like the program to have an integrated research study that could be ongoing and provide some continuity within the program courses. She is looking for faculty and community partners (BPC members) to collaborate on ideas and community needs for the research project selected. Additionally, this research or the

work completed by program interns could be presented on a "research day" at one of the BPC's facilities. She envisions each class having a specific piece of the project. Dr. David Serrano with Broward College stated that funding and support is available from CCURI.org. Dr. Serrano indicated that this group currently collaborates with Broward College and provides undergraduate research project startup funds that are necessary for supplies. BPC members approved Dr. Miles moving forward with the program research study and offered to continue to communicate on ideas for a project focus and for opportunities for the students to present their research. Action: Dr. Miles will continue to communicate with BPC members and with CCURI and aim to have a project developed by the end of fall 2017.

- B. Dr. David Serrano reported on the Environmental Science Bachelor's degree at Broward College. He reported that former PBSC student, Juliana Osorio, will be graduating soon. They anticipate having 18 graduates in May, and currently there are 100 students in the program. They were awarded a large NSF grant that included 30 scholarships to their program. The PBSC/Broward articulation agreement has been signed and continues to be an important educational pathway for our environmental science students.
- C. Mrs. Lourdes Woytek reported that there are volunteer opportunities at the SFWMD that our students could participate in, including in the GIS area. If intern positions become available, that will be in late April, and she will notify Dr. Miles of the openings. Mrs. Woytek will share when the research presentation day is at the District so students/classes can attend. Dr. Miles also inquired about the posting of positions and how the minimum requirements for some technician level positions might be adjusted to include A.S. degrees. Dr. Miles will share additional information with Mrs. Woytek on the skill sets that the program students have upon leaving the program, to see if there can be any influence on posted minimum education requirements for the technician level positions.
- D. Natasha Warraich shared about the upcoming intern projects. A lady orchid habitat study is available, and two Environmental Science program students are already scheduled to examine if water quality impacts exist as a result of the seasonal horse trail rides available in the Park. She also shared about an AmeriCorps position available at the park.
- E. Dr. Betsy Stoner shared the immediate lab position opportunity for a paid intern with Lox. River District. Students need to send in resumes immediately. She shared the need for volunteers for seagrass monitoring and River Keeper monitoring which would give students additional practice in field skills. Discussions continued about the LRD lab offering assistance to the students conducting the water quality study at Jonathan Dickinson, and the two student interns are now going to meet with Dr. Stoner as well to run their samples in the lab. Dr. Miles is grateful for this collaboration. Additionally, Dr. Miles will work with Dr. Stoner on possibly using the bacteria/water quality issues in Dubois as the program research study topic.
- F. Ms. Andrea Pereyra met with Dr. Miles prior to the meeting to share the need for a bonneted bat intern and some upcoming invasive chameleon volunteer opportunities.

ITEM 5 *Miscellaneous*

Dr. Miles discussed the success she is having with the Remind App. The app has helped to dramatically increase the number of student meetings she is having with students. Dr. Miles also shared about the offering of the Tropical Ecology course in Costa Rica which will occur in summer 2017. Finally, Dr. Miles shared that two student interns are being placed in spring with Grassy Waters Preserve and the Grassy Waters Conservancy.

OTHER

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Attendance

Dr. Jessica Miles, Dr. David Serrano, Mrs. Lourdes Woytek, Dr. Betsy Stoner, Natasha Warraich, Sherry McFadden, Ms. Andrea Pereyra (met early but absent at actual meeting time)

Submitted by: *Jessica Miles* Department Chair

Brenda Lesser, Scribe