



"A Partnership serving the educational needs of Process Industries"

Issue 9

Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance NEWSLETTER

August 2000

The International Process Technology Alliance is an organization through which Process Technology Alliances and interested parties from throughout the United States and Canada have chosen to share and collectively pool their knowledge and efforts for the furtherance of process technology education in the public sector.

The Mission of the IPTA is to provide an annual forum and structure for Industry/Education partnerships, Alliances/Consortiums, their members and supporters to come together. The purpose is to share knowledge, ideas, expertise, and materials and to ask and give answers to questions that complement common competencies, curriculum, and degree programs in Process Technology.

To this end, the IPTA has chosen to hold an annual meeting tied to the API National Training and Development Conference. This will provide each participant the opportunity to capitalize on the collective strengths, efficiencies and synergies of the whole group.

The Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance (GCPTA)

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IPTA Update, Career Expo, GCPTA College Enrollment

Upcoming Events, NSF and LAAP Grant Updates

Job Shadowing, Who Am I Hiring?, In Memoriam

Welcome, Website Information, GCPTA Officers

Over 200 students attended the 5th annual Career Expo that was held at San Jacinto College-Central Campus on February 11, 2000. Students from the Process, Instrumentation, Machinist, Electrical and Laboratory programs were invited to begin a networking relationship with industry members. This event provides an excellent opportunity for both industry and technology students to identify future career opportunities.

A total of 25 representatives from 12 companies participated in the event. They included: Albemarle, BASF, Bayer, BP Amoco, Certified Staffing, Conoco, ExxonMobil, Kelly Scientific Services, LAB Support, Lyondell-Citgo, Marathon Ashland Petroleum and Sterling Chemicals.

The Texas Area Colleges reported 1,638 students enrolled with 150 graduates. The Louisiana Area Colleges had 324 students enrolled with 28 graduates. Out of District Colleges had 94 students enrolled with 13 graduates. There has been a drop in student enrollment primarily because it seems industry is hiring a number of students before they finish with their Process Technology AAS Degree.

We have a long way to go to fill the expected vacancies in the coming 5 to 7 years, but with continued commitment from industry and education along with curriculum standardization a substantial number of AAS graduates in Process Technology should be available to fill these job vacancies.

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of Texas and Louisiana sponsors the IPTA meeting along with its major partners the Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium (APICC) and the Greater New Jersey Process Technology Alliance (GNJPTA). The GCPTA has made great strides in developing alliances with industry, education, government and the community and with the development of curriculum to support the two-year associate degree in Process Technology.

Thus far, 12 states and Canada have been represented at these annual meetings. If you represent an industry/education alliance, or if you are interested in learning more about the current activities of the IPTA, or if you are interested in helping to sponsor or help other ways with the meeting, you can contact the following steering committee members of the IPTA: (1)Dr. John Reed 225-977-5934, (2)Steve Ames 281-834-4492, (3)Merv Treigle 713-740-1995, (4)John Payne 907-564-4161, (5)Mike Kukuk 409-942-3390. If you would like to be on our mailing list you can contact the GCPTA at atgcpta@msn.com.

The next IPTA meeting will be held at the Fairmont Hotel on Sept. 12, 2000, in New Orleans, LA. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the API National Training and Development Conference Sept. 13-15, 2000. For more information, the meeting agenda and registration form are on our website.

Upcoming Events

August 11, 2000
GCPTA Meeting
Hilton, Clear Lake, TX

September 12, 2000
IPTA Meeting
New Orleans, La

November 17, 2000
GCPTA Meeting
Hilton, Clear Lake, TX

NSF Grant – The countdown has begun. The NSF team has been working hard to prepare for the piloting of the four core courses in the fall 2000. Four separate Train-the-Trainer sessions (one for each course) have been scheduled. Dates are as follows: PT I - Equipment: July 26th; PT II - Systems: August 2nd; PT III - Operations: August 9th; and Quality: August 16th. Many thanks to the members of the Education Subcommittee who have spent countless hours reviewing outlines, objectives and lesson plans.

The National Advisory Board (NAB) for the NSF grant was convened July 17-18, 2000 at the Nassau Bay Hilton, Clear Lake, Texas. The purpose of the Board is to ensure the project's success by advising the project's staff, assessing project plans and progress, and enhancing the dissemination of project results. Members of the Board include: Mike Kukuk, Sterling Chemicals, Texas; John Payne, BP Exploration, Alaska; Tom Rankin, Infineum, New Jersey; Dr. John Reed, ExxonMobil, Louisiana; Mickey Sarquis, Miami University Middletown, Ohio; Merv Treigle, Albemarle Corporation, Texas; Dr. Bruce Waguespack, Georgia Gulf Corporation, Louisiana.

LAAP Grant – The first Web-based course, Introduction to Process Technology, is scheduled to go on-line this fall. GCPTA institutions involved in this pilot effort include College of the Mainland, San Jacinto College-Central and Wharton County Junior College. The LAAP team would like to thank the members of the Distance Learning Subcommittee for their dedication and hard work this past year. This committee has made decisions regarding the instructional strategies, timelines, evaluation strategies, interface design, course navigation, technical standards and Web course management software system for the Web-based courses.

*Coming Soon....*A virtual world is on the way. You have to see it to believe it! Join us at the next GCPTA meeting for more details.

Job Shadowing

For the past three years, DuPont-Sabine River Works in Orange has been undertaking a valuable experiment in the training of process operators and instrumentation technicians. The students from Lamar Institute of Technology in Beaumont and McNeese University in Lake Charles are job shadowing positions they hope to fill in the future. More than 190 students have spent a shift on the job in the field of their choice during the past three years. You can tell immediately that some students are interested and they will make good employees. Others show little interest, and some have even changed majors after the experience. DuPont started job shadowing primarily for process operating students to give them an idea of what an operator does. Some students thought all an operator did was sit at a computer console all day. They soon learned differently. Process operating students spend one 12-hour shift with their "mentors" on a shift from Monday through Sunday.

Since our experience with Process Operating Technology was so successful, we decided to offer Instrumentation students the same opportunity. Instrumentation students work one eight-hour shift Monday through Friday. In the future, we hope to add Industrial Maintenance students to this program.

This is the way it works: Instructors choose the students who will participate. Students must be in their second semester and have a minimum 2.5 grade point average. One of industry's major concerns about job shadowing has been the liability aspect of having the students at the job site. We require students to sign a notarized release and come to the plant a week before job shadowing to view the plant's safety video and receive an indoctrination from the plant manager or his designate. We also fit them for Nomex® and a hard hat. They provide their own steel-toed shoes. The day they are to job shadow, their supervisor meets them at the gate and escorts them to their assigned area. After they've completed their shift, students write a one-page summary of the day's experiences.

Who Am I Hiring?

How can I hire a person with a certificate one day and get a person whose technical knowledge rivals that of associate degree graduates and yet another day I hire a person with a certificate who possesses only a very basic knowledge? It may surprise some to learn that there are actually 3 levels of knowledge job applicants can have after completing college. There are students who have received an 84 to 96 hour certificate, students who have received a 1-year certificate, and Associate Degree Graduates.

The first group has received an abbreviated introduction to the industry in a course that is between 84 and 96 clock hours. It does not count for college credit. This course is similar to a speeded up version of the Introduction to Process Technology course offered to first semester students in an Associates Degree Program.

The second group, the 1-year certificate holders, has received the same technical training as graduates of the Associate Degree Programs. This training does not include academic courses. However, over 500 clock hours are counted for college credit.

Graduates from Associate Degree Programs have the same technical training as the 1-year certificate holders. They also have academics such as: Physics, Chemistry, Math, English, Quality, Computer Skills, Technical Writing, Sociology, and Humanities.

Job applicants who have received training in Process Technology at their local college may not have equal levels of training. As long as you are aware of the different educational levels, you can ensure that you interview people who are at the proper level for the job opening you are trying to fill.

In Memoriam

The GCPTA is saddened at the loss of two long time friends and colleagues, Joe Jordan, Mobil-Beaumont and Tom Rodgers, TR International, who both passed away earlier this year.

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There also is room in the summary for the students' recommendations for improvements. This provides us with input on how we can improve the program. We want the program to help the students to determine if they have chosen the right career. It also has helped Dupont recruit several students for our Cooperative (Internship) Training Program and ultimately to employment at our facility.

As a result of DuPont's experience with job shadowing, several other industries in the Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange area have indicated an interest in starting similar programs. ExxonMobil in Beaumont and Chevron Chemical in Orange have recently implemented programs of their own.

Job shadowing is a valuable tool to the students, the institution, and industry in getting the students prepared for the workplace. If you would like further information about Job Shadowing, you may call Bernadette Ross, DuPont-Sabine River Works in Orange at 409-886-6942.

Welcome

The GCPTA welcomes Ann Treigle as our new Administrative Assistant. She can be contacted at atgcpta@msn.com

Gulf Coast

Process Technology Alliance

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

If you are an industry representative who would like to post your employment opportunities on the Alliance Website, please send an e-mail to the Process Technology Webmaster bobkosar@hal-pc.org.

If you are a college representative and would like to post resumes of your students (graduates only please) please send that information to the same address. Other ideas about what should be included on the Website are always welcome.

The GCPTA would like to take this opportunity to thank our Webmaster, Bob Kosar, for his time and efforts in keeping our Website up to date and looking great. Thanks Bob!

Officers of the GCPTA

President	Steve Ames, ExxonMobil
Secretary	Merv Treigle, Albemarle
Treasurer	Ed Stiles, Lyondell Citgo

Contact us at atgcpta@msn.com