



"A Partnership serving the educational needs of Process Industries"

Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance NEWSLETTER

Issue 10

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GCPTA Receives National Alliance of Business Coalition of the Year Award

On October 30, 2000, the Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance received the National Alliance of Business (NAB) Distinguished Performance Award for Coalition of the Year for its leadership in workforce development and education.

Roberts Jones, NAB President, said, "GCPTA is focusing nationwide efforts on improving the education of process technology students; bringing industry and education together to assure a cohesive competency-based curriculum and a highly qualified workforce." He further added, "GCPTA is a recognized leader at the local, national and international levels. For the past three years, the Alliance has sponsored an annual meeting of the International Process Technology Alliance, bringing together industry, business, education and government leaders from across the United States and Canada."

This distinguished award further establishes the GCPTA as a national leader in workforce development and education/business partnerships.

George W. Bush Recognizes the GCPTA

On October 23, 2000, the Honorable George W. Bush, Governor of Texas at the time and now our Distinguished President of the United States, issued a letter of congratulations to the GCPTA on receiving the 2000 Business Coalition of the Year Award. The GCPTA is very honored that he issued the letter of recognition and at a time he was at the zenith of his campaign for the Presidency of the United States. A copy of the letter is posted on our website www.processtech.org.

6th GCPTA Career Expo

A total of 215 students from Louisiana and Texas community and technical colleges attended the 6th Annual Career Expo. The Expo was held at San Jacinto College-Central Campus on February 2, 2001. This event provided excellent opportunities for students from the Process, Instrumentation, Electrical and Laboratory programs to network with industry representatives.

Thirty-two representatives from 14 companies participated in the event, and the majority were accepting applications for present hiring requirements. The companies that participated were: Albemarle, BASF, Bayer, BP, BP Amoco, Certified Customized Staffing, Dow Chemical, ExxonMobil, Kelly Scientific Resources, Koch Petroleum Group, Lyondell-Citgo, Marathon Ashland Petroleum, Sterling Chemicals and U. S. Contractors.

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Is the GCPTA Career Fair Worth Your Company's Time?

LYONDELL-CITGO Refining LP (LCR) in Houston has participated in GCPTA Career Fairs in each of the past three years. A manager at LCR questioned whether the company was getting its money's worth by setting up shop and participating in these events. To find out, Ed Stiles, Learning and Development Consultant at LCR, decided to survey the members of the last class of new operator hires, brought on board in June of 2000. He asked each person whether they had ever attended the GCPTA event.

It was found that of the 47 people hired at that time, 18 had attended the 2000 Career Fair and left their resumes with the LCR representative. Since over 1,200 resumes were eventually submitted for those 47 positions, the 18 career fair attendees made up 38% of those eventually hired.

A pretty good return on investment, wouldn't you say? Should your company be represented at the 2002 Career Fair?

IPTA Update

The GCPTA will again host the International Process Technology Alliance Conference. It will be held at the Nassau Bay Hilton Hotel in Houston, Texas on October 25 & 26, 2001.

This will be the 5th IPTA Conference, which provides an annual forum and structure for Industry/Education partnerships, Alliances/Consortiums, their members and supporters to come together.

Please come prepared to share your successes, knowledge, ideas and expertise, and to give answers and ask questions that complement common competencies, curriculum and degree programs in Process and Manufacturing Technology.

A registration form and an agenda for this conference are inserted for your use. Please register early.

Center for the Advancement of Process Technology Update

New Online Courses

The NSF and LAAP teams are busy adding finishing touches to the new online courses:

- ◆ Safety, Health & Environment
- ◆ Process Technology I – Equipment
- ◆ Process Technology II – Systems

These three Web-based courses provide the same level of interactivity as the Introduction to Process Technology course and are offered through WebCT, a Web course management system.

Pilots for these online courses are scheduled for the Fall 2001 semester. Each online course will be piloted at two college locations. To be considered for piloting, your college must have submitted a Memorandum of Understanding by July 9. Pilot instructors must attend a 1 ½ day orientation session at College of the Mainland on August 9th and 10th.

Instructors who plan to offer a CAPT/GCPTA online course in the future may also attend the orientation session. Please register with Cindy Washington at the Center for the Advancement of Process Technology. Contact Cindy through e-mail (cwashington@mail.mainland.cc.tx.us), or by phone 409-938-1211, ext. 103.

Texas Skills Standards

The first phase in the development of skill standards is complete. Process technicians from several GCPTA member companies convened at College of the Mainland recently to identify the duties and tasks performed by process technicians in the petrochemical/refining industries. The subject matter expert panel consisted of representatives from BASF, BP, Dow and Nalco/Exxon.

The second phase of the development process will begin the latter part of July. This phase takes the raw data from Phase 1 (duties and tasks) and organizes it into a common skill standards framework (critical work functions, key activities and performance criteria). It is critical that all recognized skill standards use this framework in order to allow a systematic conversion

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of the standards into training and educational programs. This framework allows educational providers to easily convert the standards into curricula or validate their existing curricula. Thus, this step is critical in making the data usable for stakeholders, and for the development and validation of curricula and assessment instruments.

Virtual Reality Modules for Process Technology

College of the Mainland through the Center for the Advancement of Process Technology has subcontracted Futron Corporation to develop three activities utilizing virtual environments for the Process Technology curriculum. Development for the virtual reality activity portion of the LAAP grant is underway. The activities include:

- ◆ Hazard recognition
- ◆ A hands-on activity – disassembly and assembly of a virtual valve
- ◆ A database behind the product that will track students' progress

On April 20, 2001 a prototype of the Hazard Recognition Activity was presented to the Educational Subcommittee of the Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance (GCPTA) at the College of the Mainland. The Hazard Recognition Activity presents Process Technology students with an opportunity to learn about the various types of hazards they may encounter in a process facility. Students are able to take a tour of a virtual process facility, called the "Timtene Unit", and identify the different types of hazards they encounter. Once a hazard is identified, the students are guided and referred to various elements in the program, which allows them to understand, in a non-threatening environment, the nature of the hazard, and the impact it can have on safety, health, the facility and the environment. Students are also asked to identify the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment for each hazardous situation and must take a test to evaluate what information they have learned. The Educational

Subcommittee approved the design and layout of the activity and approved further development of the activity.

Lamar Institute of Technology Receives Industry Donations from ExxonMobil and Chevron Chemical

ExxonMobil Corporation's five installations in Beaumont have contributed \$15,500 to Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) towards the cost of construction of a distillation unit at the LIT campus in Beaumont. The Board of Regents of The Texas State University System has approved the construction of the distillation unit at a cost of \$300,000.

"The plant will serve as the outside laboratory for the process operating, instrumentation and industrial maintenance programs at LIT," said Dr. Robert Krienke, President of the Institute. LIT has employed the engineering firm of Testengeer, Inc. of Bay City, Texas to design the facility. Testengeer estimates engineering and construction will be concluded in time for the fall 2001 semester. "We have wanted a plant where our students could get additional true-to-life experience in a laboratory environment," said Dr. Krienke. "We wanted them to experience the same job related endeavors as confront a worker in a plant."

Another excellent addition to LIT's Process Technology and related education capabilities came from Chevron Chemical of Orange. Chevron Chemical donated a skid unit, which it had taken offline, and it will be the centerpiece of the new laboratory. The value of the Chevron donation has been estimated to be in excess of \$50,000.

A New Training Facility at the Louisiana Technical College, River Parishes Campus

Construction of a 5,000 square-foot P-Tech training facility began in early April 2001 at Louisiana Technical

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College, River Parishes Campus in Reserve, Louisiana. The building will house classrooms and a new control room with Distributive Control System technology. The new building is being built adjacent to the building, which now houses the operating methanol distillation unit, and its control systems that are used to train Process Technology students and new and incumbent employees from industries in the surrounding area.

The building will ease the already overfilled classrooms in the Technology Department of the campus. Classes are expected to begin in the new facility in the fall of 2001.

P-Tech Graduates Really Are Better Prepared!

Wayne Huckeba, Training Manager at CITGO in Lake Charles, reports that Dr. Clyde Mayo, an industrial psychologist who is involved in employee selection processes at several CITGO plants, recently did a comparative study between the pre-employment test scores of graduates of Process Technology programs (specifically those from McNeese and Lamar) and “off the street” CITGO Lake Charles hires of recent years. The results provide quantifiable support for what most of us felt to be true – P-Tech grads really are better prepared to begin a process operator career and make more immediate positive contributions to their employing companies.

A breakdown of the tests used by Dr. Mayo for the study, and the percent improvement for each is provided below:

- ◆ Learning Ability:
P-Tech Graduates 28% better
- ◆ Arithmetic Reasoning:
P-Tech Graduates 28% better
- ◆ Chemical Comprehension:
P-Tech Graduates 81% better
- ◆ Mechanical Comprehension:
P-Tech Graduates 53% better

GCPTA Showcases Past Years and Future Plans

The Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance held its first annual Showcase Meeting and it was a resounding success. The meeting, held specifically to present its accomplishments and products produced over the past 5 years to Plant Managers, HR Managers, College Presidents and Chancellors, Government Officials and other invited guests, was attended by more than 150 guests. The history of the GCPTA, its vision, accomplishments, products produced, and plans for the future were presented to the audience by the officers and leadership of the GCPTA. A special “Thank You” was given to those in attendance for all the support provided by the leaders of industry, education and government.

The Center for the Advancement of Process Technology (CAPT) presented several modules from the web-based curriculum and virtual world showing its graphic and reality capabilities. This really impressed members of the audience with comments being made such as ‘Wow!’, ‘What a real world experience in an educational setting’ and ‘This is really on the cutting edge of education in process technology’. Ms. Jessica Lindsey, a new process technician with ExxonMobil in Baytown, Texas, gave a testimony on the personal value of a process technology degree. Mr. C. A. (Tony) Gryseels, Jr., HR Business Partner of Dow Chemical in Freeport, Texas, spoke about the value to industry of a new hire technician with a process technology degree.

The GCPTA wishes to acknowledge and thank the following persons and their companies for their sponsorship of the meeting: Barry Hardy, Training and Development Systems, Inc.; Mike Flynn, Hampden Engineering Corporation; and Donald Glaser, Simulation Solutions, Inc.

The officers and executive committee also wish to thank all who helped to make this first annual Showcase Meeting a success. The slide presentations from the meeting are posted on the website www.processtech.org.

Process Technology Program Benefits Operators and Dow

There are about 100 employees at Dow Texas Operations in Freeport, Texas, that are currently working full time and attending college classes in pursuit of a degree in Process Technology. In late 1999, Dow developed a plant operator program that hired employees interested in working full-time and going to school to obtain the process technology degree. Dow pays for tuition and books. Dow employee, 39 year-old Allen Matejek, is an excellent example of the program at work. Allen, a lead distribution operator at Dow's Marine Terminal, is a student enrolled at Brazosport College; he is a husband and father of two young boys and attends college 10 hours a week. He says, "it's tough but I'm committed". Allen says the secret to juggling his busy lifestyle is the support he receives at home and work. His wife is his biggest supporter and his co-workers and supervisors also support and help him.

Rickey Williams, production leader at Dow, says the process technology degree program is in demand because of global competition and the need to keep pace with rapidly changing technology. "What we expected from plant operators 10 years ago and what we expect today is totally different," he says. Williams also said that reduction in time and cost to train new operators is just one of the benefits that Dow expects to see from the program in the future.

Mike Gragg, site learning leader, says the process technology degree program is a win-win for the employees, the community and the company. "These individuals are developing the skill sets that are needed for the future." Gragg says that Dow understands the lifestyle challenges employees in the program face. A number of things have been designed to balance work and school. He hosts feedback sessions with employees to discuss progress and provide encouragement. An issues team has been formed with students, faculty, and union leadership to identify issues and solutions. One result of this partnership is the development of a class held early mornings at the Dow site so that those working the

overnight shift can attend class. A few classes are offered on the Internet. Gragg says "I look forward to working with others in local industry so that together we can achieve even greater results." Gragg stated he is proud that Dow Texas Operations has taken a lead with this program.

Houston Community College Holds Successful Summit

A successful "Process Industries Career Summit" took place at Houston Community College Northeast Campus on April 11, 2001. The purpose of this event was to promote process and chemical technology as outstanding career options to interested high school students. It was emphasized that chemistry, math and physics play a very important role in the overall preparation of students who enter into these industry fields. The Career Summit consists of three cycles: Operations, Testing and Management. Testing and Management are scheduled to be conducted separately during the fall 2001 semester.

The first cycle of the "Career Summit" focused on Operations. Attendees were high school students and their physical science instructors and administrators from the Houston Independent School District. Ms. Karen Leback, City of Houston, and Mr. Jim Stewart of Lyondell Chemical Company made presentations on process industries core competencies. Mr. David Lindsay of Lyondell Chemical Company gave a Process Industry Overview that was very informative. Mayor Lee Brown sent his greetings through an encouraging letter. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in workshops such as "A Day in the Life of a Process Technician and a Process Engineer Working Together", "A Day in the Life of a Chemical Technician and a Chemist Working Together", and "Analytical and Process Demonstrations—HCCS and HISD Working Together".

Promotional displays by ExxonMobil, Hampden Engineering, Lyondell-Equistar, Texas Petrochemicals, City of Houston, HISD, HCC-NE Department of Process and Chemical Laboratory Technology captured the interest of the attendees.

Upcoming Events

August 17, 2001
GCPTA Meeting
Hilton, Clear Lake, TX

October 25, 2001
GCPTA Meeting
Hilton, Clear Lake, TX

October 25 & 26, 2001
IPTA Meeting
Hilton, Clear Lake, TX

Officers of the GCPTA

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Secretary	Ed Stiles, Lyondell Citgo Phone: 713-321-4495
Treasurer	Kathy Trahan, PPG Phone: 337-708-4864
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Information for the GCPTA Website

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!

Note: Copies of the National Alliance of Business Award and the George W. Bush letter of Congratulations are on our Website.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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