



Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance

"A Partnership serving the educational needs of Process Technology"

NEWSLETTER

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GCPTA Officers

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BRCC Designated as Host Site for First Female Summer Institute Pilot

Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC), through a GCPTA grant sub-award from the Center for the Advancement of Process Technology was awarded the opportunity to pilot the "Summer Institute for High School Females". Kathy Trahan, Director of Process Technology at BRCC, facilitated this five-day program. Juniors and seniors from various high schools in the Baton Rouge area were afforded a unique opportunity to take part in a week long institute dedicated to exploring the opportunities available to females in the process industries found along the gulf coast region.

The weeks' activities in-

cluded: a talk regarding the challenges of a non-traditional career in the process industry; an internet activity that allowed the students to learn more about the way they assimilated information through the on-line VARK learning style assessment, which was followed by an Internet scavenger hunt; a question and answer session with a panel of women working in process technology to help the students in gaining perspective on the ins and outs of being a plant worker; activities in the process of distillation led by instructors; an activity on polymer basics also led by an instructor; and two plant tours—Dow Plaquemine Chemical plant and

Placid.

The students finished out the week by participating in a teamwork exercise that drove home the importance of continuous improvement by engaging in progressively more difficult activities.

The week's activities culminated in the students giving presentations to their parents and other industry representatives. The presentations were centered on processes that the students had identified earlier and had worked independently on throughout the week. They worked as teams and made their final presentations during a recognition lunch.

BASF FINA Partnerships with Lamar Institute of Technology for Employee Training Program

New employees of BASF FINA attend a 12-week training session at LIT, which provides employees with equal amounts of classroom instruction and hands-on training. LIT recently opened a \$700,000 petrochemical

Plant training center at its Beaumont campus.

Employees receive a certificate of completion at the end of the training program, which they can apply toward an associate degree in Process

Operating Technology at LIT. The certificate is worth 15 credit hours toward completion of the degree program.

Center for the Advancement of Process Technology Update

CIBP Conference 2003

Many GCPTA members participated in the CAPT Critical Issues and Best Practices Conference, held on October 9—10 at the South Shore Harbour Resort in League City, TX. Attendance was up from 2002, and comments favorable—particularly about the work accomplished during the conference. Various critical issues were addressed in the opening session, ranging from partnership responsibilities to equipment needs.

Since the conference, the CAPT staff has reviewed and themed the input from the session, and will address the two most frequent themes for each critical issue during the coming year. They are as follows:

Critical Issue #1: Education and industry members fail to recognize, fulfill and maintain their roles and responsibilities within an equitable partnership.

- 1) Individual support on Advisory Committees
- 2) Engage top management support from education and industry.

Critical Issue #2: The supply of qualified program graduates does not align with the needs of industry, understanding that this need is impacted by geographic location, industry sector, and the cyclical nature of the business.

- 1) Centralized database for job and graduate listings
- 2) Marketing

Critical Issue #5: Programs may lack appropriate equipment and software to support the delivery of a quality education.

- 1) Investigate grant sources to fund equipment purchases
- 2) Surplus equipment database

Critical Issue #6: Programs experience difficulties in attracting and retaining quality instructors.

- 1) Provide paid summer internships for faculty
- 2) Offer professional development opportunities to full-time and part-time instructors in order to maximize their effectiveness in the classroom and provide skills upgrade.

Oil and Gas Curriculum

Oil and Gas II was piloted at the Lamar Institute of Technology in Beaumont during Fall 2003. This course is the second in the two-course curriculum that has been developed to introduce process technology students to the job and duties performed by the oil and gas production technician.

CAPT Website has a New Look

The CAPT Website www.capttech.org has been redesigned for easy navigation. Now more colorful and intuitive, the home page features an interactive box that highlights useful documents and data. Each item can be opened with a single click.

Resources are divided into sections for educators, students, and industry. In addition, drop down menus at the top of the page provide a direct connection to a variety of materials and information.

McNeese University Receives ABET Accreditation

McNeese State University's Associate of Science in Engineering Technology—Process Plant concentration has earned accreditation from the Technology Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET). McNeese's program is the first PTEC program on the Gulf Coast to achieve such accreditation and only the second in the nation to be so recognized. According to accreditation consultants and reviewers, it is very unusual for a program to receive a full 6-year accreditation on the first try.

This accreditation confirms that PTEC programs can operate on a high level and meet the same standards that have been applied to other engineering technology fields for years.

Future Events

GCPTA 2004 Meetings:

Friday, April 23—Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Friday, July 30—Houston, Texas
Friday, November 12—Lake Charles, Louisiana

Critical Issues and Best Practices Conference:

South Shore Harbour Resort—
September 29, 30 & October 1

GCPTA New Members

The GCPTA takes this opportunity to welcome its 2003 new members: Dr. Charles Thomas, Lee College; Frances Toney, PPG Industries; Bryan Taylor, Basell USA; Vibhu Sharma, Ingenious, Inc.; Linda Jones-Zbraneck, Lee College Fieldbus Ctr.; Kirk Hunter, Texas State Technical College; Tammy Terrell, Chevron Phillips; Kelly Melton, Baker Energy; John Shows, Mississippi Gulf coast Community College; Javier Esparza, Conoco Phillips-China; Timothy Brown, Bayport Training and Technical Center; Raymond Perry, Sterling Chemicals; Todd Griffen, Conoco Phillips; Paul Heidleberg, BASF Corporation; and Leavon Robinson, Union Carbide Company, a Subsidiary of Dow Chemical Company.

If you would like to become a member of the GCPTA, please contact Steve Erickson at sderickson@sbcglobal.net.

"Knowledge is Power"

New Mission, Vision, and Objectives for the GCPTA

The Executive Committee has formulated a new Mission, Vision, and Objectives for the GCPTA. They are as follows:

Mission: The GCPTA exists to provide industry and education with the Leadership, Resources, and Connectivity to assure that Process Technicians and Paraprofessionals that meet industry needs.

Vision: The GCPTA will provide qualified Paraprofessionals that meet industry needs.

Objectives:

- By 2008, a framework exists that assures quality graduates.
- By 2008, the pool of PTech graduates will balance with industry needs.
- By 2008, 50% of GCPTA industry members are utilizing PTech materials to upgrade their incumbent worker skills.
- By 2008, a regional marketing plan is in place that effectively markets PTech careers to high school and college students and assists in PTech graduate job placement.

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*"A Partnership serving the educational needs of
Process Technology"*

We're on the web!
www.processtech.org

Executive Director's Corner

There are a lot of exciting things going on in the GCPTA right now. CAPT recently funded a two-day Instructional Analysis session on Applied Physics at BRCC. GCPTA industry and educational representatives worked with CAPT staff to develop a course outline that may be used by education partners to better prepare PTEC students for jobs in industry. We will also be working with CAPT on two additional sessions being held at BRCC in the near term. One of the sessions will deal with Applied Chemistry and the other with Applied Math. These sessions are the direct result of input from many of you.

Later in the year, the GCPTA will sponsor sev-

eral developmental workshops with a sub-award to GCPTA from CAPT through the NSF grant. More details will follow on the workshops, as the Executive Committee is able to consider them further.

The Rules and Bylaws committee has been doing a rewrite on the bylaws. Once a final draft is approved by the Steering Committee, they will be posted on the Website and circulated to the membership electronically.

The Curriculum and Education committee (usually referred to as the Educational Subcommittee) is also starting work with CAPT on reviewing two textbooks CAPT will be publishing.

two textbooks CAPT will be publishing. The two textbooks to be published are: Instrumentation I and II and Introduction to Process Technology. Plans are to have these available for the spring semester of 2005.

The Executive Committee and staff of the GCPTA want to help meet the needs of our members. If there are areas you feel we need to be addressing, please let me know. If you would like to be more involved in the GCPTA, we would welcome that.

We are grateful for all of you who make up the GCPTA and hope 2004 is a great year for all of you.

Steve Erickson, Executive Director
GCPTA

