



Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance Newsletter

Issue 7

April 1999

Gulf Coast Partnership Takes Top Award

College of the Mainland and the Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance (GCPTA) with 11 community colleges and 22 petrochemical and refining industries in Texas and Louisiana were recently honored as the top Workforce Development Partnership in the country. It was the first-ever award given to a college for pioneering workforce education. College of the Mainland (COM) and members of the GCPTA accepted the national Bellwether Award recently in Orlando, Florida. The Bellwether Award, presented by the University of Florida's Institute of Higher Education, recognizes outstanding industry and education partnerships which promote economic development.

The participants included: Dr. Dale Campbell, *Director*-Institute of Higher Education, University of Florida; Steve Ames, *Process Training Coordinator*, Exxon Company USA-Baytown; Mike Kukuk, *Training Coordinator*, Sterling Chemicals Incorporated; Barry Hardy, *CEO*, Training and Development Systems, Incorporated; Dr. John Reed, *Training and Development Specialist*, Exxon - Baton Rouge. The participants from COM were: Bill Raley, *Associate Dean of Technical Education*, COM; Joanna Kile, *Professor*, COM and Dr. James E. Butler, *Board of Trustees member*, COM. The GCPTA would like to thank Mr. Larry Stanley, President of College of the Mainland, for all of his support to the Alliance as well as the Process Technology Department at College of the Mainland.

Albemarle and San Jacinto Central Partner in an Internship Program

Merv Treigle

Albemarle Corporation - Pasadena Plant

Albemarle Corporation in Pasadena and San Jacinto College Campus are partnered in an internship program for the process technology students. The internship is an elective available to process technology students who have met certain prerequisites and are working toward an Associate of Applied Science degree in Process Technology. The industry partners who are participating in the internship program are Albemarle Corporation in Pasadena, Aristech Chemical Corporation in Pasadena, and Dupont in LaPorte. These companies are providing process technology students work experiences within the operating units of their plants. This work experience allows the students to receive 3 credit hours towards the AAS degree and it affords the industry partners an opportunity to observe potential employees in the work environment without commitment to offering permanent employment.

Albemarle Corporation in Pasadena has participated in the internship program since its inception in the fall semester of 1998. We provide interns with the opportunity to work twenty hours a week for sixteen weeks (one semester), at a reasonable rate of pay and we are afforded the opportunity to evaluate potential employees and support San Jacinto College and the Process Technology curriculum.

Now, what have we done: In a cooperative effort with our union representatives, we allow the interns to shadow first class operators and perform work only under their guidance and supervision. We put interns through all of our pre-employment screenings and safety training. We allow them to train on the modules for job qualification and test them for knowledge. We provide work related evaluations on the interns to the college using our standard evaluation. We rotate them to different operating units within the plant to get a look at their performance in different processes and to allow

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
•	4th GCPTA Education & Information Career Expo
•	2nd Joint GCPTA and Louisiana Alliance meeting
•	NSF Grant Update
•	Bellwether Award
•	Internship Program at Albemarle

them to work in batch and continuous processes.

Why an internship program? To quote one of our interns, "What better way to allow students to have a true related work experience in process technology and for them to learn if this is a career to which they want to commit". It provides practicum for all the information, knowledge, and practices taught, studied, and learned while in the classroom. It is an excellent way for he/she will be expected to perform. What better way to evaluate prospective future employees.

The challenge! To get more industry participation in the program and to inform other Alliance member colleges and industries this type of program is worthwhile.

SPRING ENROLLMENT

Spring 1999 enrollment for schools participating in the survey for spring enrollment of students of GCPTA member schools was 2388.

New Formation of the International Process Technology Alliance

GCPTA branching into International Alliance

The International Process Technology Alliance or IPTA was formed on January 15, 1999. At this meeting seven states from across the United States participated. The state participants were: Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi, North Dakota, Michigan, and North Carolina. From that meeting, seven subcommittees and a chairman were established. The chairman of the IPTA is Dr. John Reed of Exxon - Baton Rouge. The subcommittees are Meetings, Curriculum, Public Relations, Structure/Leadership, Mission/Goals/Scope, Funding, and Membership/Bylaws. All representatives at this meeting voted to create a board of directors. However, the board of directors is a temporary structure and permanent positions will be voted on at the next meeting. Each state nominated members from their own state to serve on the board. The Board of Directors consists of the chairpersons of the different subcommittees. Each subcommittee is responsible to work out issues and recommendations for their area of responsibility. Final recommendations will be made at the September 1999 annual meeting and will include a permanent chairperson and board members. The next IPTA meeting will be September 28, 1999, in New Orleans, Louisiana. For subcommittee membership or participation, please contact the chairperson for that subcommittee listed on the web site. For additional information about the International Process Technology Alliance, see the IPTA web site at www.processtech.org, or contact Dr. John Reed by e-mail at: john.reed@astd.noli.com.

The 4th GCPTA Education & Information Career Expo

The Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance, GCPTA, held its 4th Education & Information Career Expo at the San Jacinto College - Central Campus Ballroom during the month of September where over 250 students attended. The focus of this event was for students from the Process, Instrumentation, Machinist, electrical, and laboratory programs of local community colleges to begin networking relationships with industry and their educational/training providers.

Some of the companies that participated in the Expo included: BP Amoco, Albemarle Corporation, BASF, Bayer, SkillMaster, Colonial Pipeline Company, Kelly Scientific Resources, The Dow Chemical Company, Sterling Chemicals, Certified, Marathon Ashland Petroleum, Dupont, Koch Petroleum Group, Petroleum Services Group, and Exxon Company USA.

School participation was excellent. Every school that received Expo information had students attend. The schools with students attending were: San Jacinto College Central Campus in Pasadena, with 69 students; Lee College in Baytown, with 58 students; College of the Mainland in Texas City, with 41 students; Alvin Community College with 27 students; Brazosport College in Lake Jackson, with 14 students; McNeese State University in Lake Charles and Texas State Technical College in Marshall, each with 11 students, Victoria College and Lamar University Institute of Technology in Beaumont, each with 6 students, Wharton County Jr. College in Wharton, with 5 students and Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, with 2 students.

Pictured below are members of the *Organization for Process Technology Students (OPTS)* from College of the Mainland.

The next career expo is scheduled for Friday, February 11, 2000. These companies are getting first choice at potential new employees before everyone else. We hope this one will be even more successful than in the past. For more information, contact Valerie M. Billiot at 281-834-0766. See you at the next expo.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PILOT INSTRUCTORS MEETING

COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND
FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1999
SH&E 8:00AM - 12:00NOON
OTHER 1:00PM - 5:00PM

2ND JOINT GCPTA AND LOUISIANA MEETING

PLAYERS ISLAND HOTEL
LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA
TELEPHONE: 318-437-1510 OR 800-977-PLAY
FAX: 318-437-1555
FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1999
9:00AM - 1:00PM

INTERNATIONAL PROCESS TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE MEETING

THE FAIRMONT HOTEL - NEW ORLEANS
SEPTEMBER 28, 1999

T&D API INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

NEW ORLEANS
SEPTEMBER 29- OCTOBER 1, 1999

Welcome to ...

The Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance would like to welcome Denise Navarro. Denise along with Barry Hardy are the Project Directors for the Educational Subcommittee. Denise is a recognized expert in the area of workforce performance improvement in the petrochemical, military and aerospace. As a consultant, Denise has concentrated her attention on the on the following areas: Instructional Systems Design, Intelligent Systems, Human Factors, Software Design, Intelligent Computer Aided Training Systems Design, and Quality System Implementation including ISO. Denise is affiliated with a number of professional organizations including the National Society of Hispanic MBA's (NSHMBA), the Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES), and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE).

- Welcome Denise! -

Educational Subcommittee Update

Denise Navarro

Training and Development Systems

The activities the Educational Subcommittee is currently working on includes: completion and delivery of materials, feedback from instructors and continued evaluation of materials. We are currently piloting the course materials and receiving feedback through formative evaluation forms and e-mail while waiting for the semester to end. Once the semester ends we will have a meeting with the pilot instructors at College of the Mainland on

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May 14th to process the feedback. After that, TDS will make any revisions that are necessary and complete the project.

Web Site Update

Visit our new web site

Bob Kosar

Resource Development Corporation

At the International Process Technology Alliance (IPTA) meeting, the Public Relations subcommittee decided to proceed with the development of web site to promote the activities of the newly formed IPTA as well as all regional alliances. College of the Mainland offered to host the Internet server and Bob Kosar with Resource Development Corporation volunteered to post information on the site.

The site offers general information about the new IPTA, the subcommittees that have formed with contact information and statements about their activities. The Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance members and subcommittee members have contributed many pieces of information including planned events, meeting minutes, past newsletters and reference links to many of their own web pages.

The results can be found on the web at **www.processtech.org**. Be sure to check the site often as information is updated on a regular basis. If you would like to add your news, more information related to Alliance activities or have any comments, please send it by e-mail to the webmaster at **rkosar@resourcedev.com**.

NSF Grant Update

Recently the GCPTA was awarded the National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant. The grant is for approximately \$900,000.00 and will be distributed throughout a three year time period. During the first year the development of four core courses is expected. Also the WWW site is expected to be developed and the shadowing experience for physics and chemistry faculty and applied lab module development is also expected to be in the works. During the second year the pilot and revisions for the core PTEC courses and the redesign of two core courses for distance learning is expected. Also, the shadowing experience for physics and chemistry and applied lab module development is expected with the chemistry and physics module dissemination through the WWW. Finally during the third year the delivery of two core courses via distance learning along with core course dissemination is expected. Chemistry and physics module dissemination through the WWW is also expected.

2nd Joint Texas and Louisiana Alliance meeting

This meeting is open to Louisiana Alliance members and GCPTA members as well as other interested parties. The meeting will be held at the Players Island Hotel in Lake Charles, Louisiana on Friday June 25, 1999. The agenda items for this meeting has not been decided. The meeting registration fee is \$23.00 and is payable at the door by cash or check, **NO CREDIT CARDS!** If you are planning an over night stay on Thursday night, the hotel rooms are \$69.00 if you ask for the "**GCPTA room block**" by **May 24, 1999**. For reservations call 800-977-play. If you have not completed a Meeting Confirmation Form, please contact Valerie at 281-834-0766 or by e-mail at vbilliot@mail.mainland.cc.tx.us. **Players Island Hotel** is located on Interstate 10. See the map below for directions.

Players Island Hotel is conveniently located on Interstate 10 in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Driving East, take Exit 29. Driving West, take Exit 30A.

Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance

P.O. Box 3950, NW 82
Baytown, Texas 77522

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

A SPECIAL THANKS ...

The members of the Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance would like to thank **Primedia/Williams Learning** for taking care of postage and distribution of the newsletters.

FYI...

Every regular BI-monthly GCPTA meeting is open to those interested in attending. There is a registration fee and an agenda for these meetings. If you are not a member of the GCPTA and would like to receive meeting announcements, please contact Valerie at vbilliot@mail.mainland.cc.tx.us or by phone at 281-834-0766. If you are interested in membership information, please fax a copy of your business card to 281-834-3056.

See the February 1999 issue of CHEMICAL ENGINEERING for the article entitled, "Who Will Operate Your Plant?".

Visit our web site at www.processtech.org