

Steve Ames resigns; Executive Committee selects Eric Newby as his successor.

Eric Newby, training coordinator for BASF in Port Arthur and Beaumont, has been elected President of Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance (GCPTA), filling out the term of Steve Ames of ExxonMobil's Refinery in Baytown. Ames has resigned, effective Nov. 7.

Dorothy Ortego, director of the Process Technology Program and assistant professor at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, has been elected secretary to fill out the remainder of Newby's term. The organization will elect a secretary to a full two-year term at its meeting Nov. 7 at the Isle of Capri in Lake Charles. The organization fills the office of President through an election every two years.

The Executive Committee of the organization filled the two positions under a provision of the organization's by-laws that allows the committee to appoint persons to fill officer positions when they become vacated.

Ames has been President of the GCPTA since 1996. During this tenure, the organization has been successful, co-partnering with College of the Mainland, in acquiring a National Science Foundation grant to establish the Center for the Advancement of Process Technology (CAPT). Through Ames' leadership, GCPTA won national recognition from the Department of Labor for its role in developing improving and maintaining the curriculum and promoting Process Technician careers.

While Ames has been president, the standardized curriculum for a two-year associate of applied science degree in Process Technology has been developed and is now used in the three-state GCPTA region of Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The standards GCPTA has established in those states have been replicated throughout the United States.

Alliances, like GCPTA, now have been organized in the Alaska, New Jersey, the Rocky Mountains, Great Lakes, Northwest, California and southeastern United States. Ames will continue to serve as secretary and member of the board of the Center for the Advancement of Process Technology, Inc.

The GCPTA continues to be a partnership of industry representatives and education providers established as a non-profit organization to promote the two-year associate of applied science degree in process technology and to promote careers opportunities in Process Technology.

Newby has been secretary of GCPTA for the past two years. He is chair of the organization's Sustainability Committee. Ortego is co-chair of the Standards and Quality Committee which has established standards for GCPTA endorsement of college PTEC programs. Currently there are 16 universities and community and technical colleges which have been endorsed by GCPTA.

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