

GCPTA MEETINGMINUTES

Isle of Capri Conference Center

Date: Friday, November 9, 2007

Time: 9 a.m. – 12 noon

President Steve Ames opened the business meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. There were 45 members and guests in attendance. Introductions were given by all in attendance.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes and New Members – Eric Newby, BASF/GCPTA Secretary

Minutes of the July 27, 2007, meeting were approved as written.

The following were approved by the Steering Committee to become new members of the GCPTA.

In-Region Voting Endorsed College Membership

Joe Hutchins, Sowela Technical Community College

In-Region Non-Voting Associate College Membership

None

In-Region Non-Voting Associate Membership

Gerald Gammel, Dixie Chemical Company

William Duncan, Baker Energy

Mike Tucker, Eastman Chemical

Out-of-Region Associate Membership

None

Election of President and Treasurer – Eric Newby, BASF/GCPTA Secretary

The Steering Committee has re-elected Steve Ames to serve a new two-year term as President. Larry Goodwin was elected treasurer for a two-year term.

Recognition Award –Steve Ames, Eric Newby (GCPTA officers)

Steve Ames and Eric Newby presented outgoing treasurer Ronnie Baker of ExxonMobil with a plaque, recognizing his two years of service in the office. He also was recognized for his work in the GCPTA, particularly his work as Industrial Co-Chair of the Public Affairs Committee.

Recognition of Endorsed Colleges – Dorothy Ortego, McNeese, and Ed Stiles, Lyondell, S&Q Co-Chairs

Ed Stiles announced that the Standards and Quality Sub-Committee recommended re-endorsement of the following colleges for the next year. The colleges met all criteria for re-endorsement.

The colleges present and their representatives attending included:

Baton Rouge Community College, Dr. Sharon Flanagan

College of the Mainland, Jerry Duncan

Lamar Institute of Technology, Walter Tucker

McNeese State University, Dorothy Ortego

San Jacinto College, Glenn Johnson
Sowela Technical Community College, Joe Hutchins
Texas State Technical College-Marshall, Martha McKinley

Louisiana Technical College – Ascension and Alvin Community College received re-endorsement but were not present.

Dorothy Ortego presented the re-endorsed colleges with plates, indicating the date and year of their re-endorsements, to be attached to their endorsement plaques.

Ed asked that all Advisory meeting minutes and audits be sent to the Administrative Assistant, Rita Ames email admin@gcpta.org.

Presentation by ExxonMobil – Ronnie Baker, ExxonMobil/GCPTA Treasurer

Ronnie Baker presented GCPTA Public Affairs Director Harry Wood with a check for \$5,000 from ExxonMobil to support the efforts of the Public Affairs Committee and GCPTA to promote Process Technology as a career opportunity for individuals seeking jobs.

Workforce Shortage – Pete Darling from the Louisiana Office of the Governor

Dr. Clarence Hughes of Sowela Technical Community College introduced Pete Darling of the Office of the Governor of Louisiana. Mr. Darling expressed his regrets for Carla Landry, director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, who was to have been the speaker for the program. Mr. Darling indicated that Ms Landry was ill. Mr. Darling discussed the worker shortage in Louisiana, pointing out that Process Technicians are in demand. Although they are not listed as such, Process Technicians fit into a category of occupations the Workforce Commission calls Chemical Plant and System Operator. It is one of the highest paying non-four-year university degree occupations, paying \$25.66 an hour. Mr. Darling also pointed out that almost 100 percent of the jobs in Louisiana require a high school education, yet 37 percent of those entering public schools drop out before completing high school. He also noted that 58 percent of the jobs require a two-year degree, certificate or advanced training.

Industry Needs and Education's Response – Wayne Huckeba, CITGO, Dr. Clarence Hughes and Joe Hutchins of Sowela Technical Community College, Glenn Sellers of LTC-River Parishes and Larry Goodwin of Nunez Community College.

Setting the tone of the discussion, Wayne Huckeba discussed industry's need for two-year associate of applied science degree graduates in Process Technology. Huckeba forecast the need would be at least 300 a year in Louisiana for the next several years as Baby Boomers retire and industry expands on both sides of the Texas-Louisiana border. Huckeba said industry in Louisiana faces the dilemma of not having enough graduates to fill the positions. He said in some cases industry is hiring students directly out of college before they graduate.

Dr. Hughes and Hutchins discussed the success Sowela in Lake Charles has had in growing its enrollment from in the 100s to the 400s. Industry support has been a big factor, they said. Industry has presented programs in regional high school and provided the dollars to advertise career opportunities in PTEC on television. Hutchins pointed out that Sowela's growth has been despite problems the college has undergone since Hurricane Rita in getting its facilities restored.

Glenn Sellers said LTC-River Parishes currently had the largest enrollment in Process Technology in the college's history. LTC-River Parish at 437 has the largest enrollment of any of the 15 GCPTA-endorsed. He credited an article in the New Orleans Times Picayune in February about the career opportunities in Process Technology, particularly at River Parish college, as having a big impact on his enrollment. He said it began a siege of telephone calls which continue to come into the South Louisiana college campus. Sellers also credited his faculty with establishing and maintaining integrity in their PTEC program as helping give students confidence in the training and in the job opportunities after graduation.

Larry Goodwin told about Nunez's experience with Hurricane Katrina and how the enrollment in the PTEC program has grown from zero to more than 200 in two years. He said word of mouth about the program probably helped most, but the college had an open house for parents and prospective students and had received a lot of support from industry in promoting the program.

Recruiting from the Military for PTEC – Eric Newby, BASF, GCPTA secretary, and Louis Poore, Shell Oil Company

In absence of Louis Poore, Eric Newby presented a discussion of his experiences in Beaumont and Port Arthur of attempting to recruit persons who are completing their active duty military obligations and pursuing a new career. He said he had been received well by the military reserve units and had established a recruitment table in one of the armories where he has placed brochures and material from Lamar Institute of Technology. He said Louis Poore had been called to Canada on business but had provided GCPTA with a Power Point presentation that will be placed on the GCPTA website. The presentation gives colleges and industry pointers on how to recruit from the military. (The presentation is posted under News and Best Practices on the website.)

Public Affairs Committee Report –Oscar Polk/Mike Kukuk (Committee Co-Chairs)

In absence of Co-Chair Oscar Polk and Mike Kukuk, Public Affairs Director Harry Wood reported that the PA Committee has drafted a marketing plan and is rapidly completing its objectives for the year. He said four-color brochures that show industry advantages of hiring two-year PTEC graduates are available as are two brochures designed for student recruitment. Wood said the brochures will be place on the website and can be downloaded and reproduced. He said the PA Committee has selected Understanding, Inc. of Houston to produce a 5-7 minutes video promoting careers in Process Technology. He said DVDs will be made available to college members. He said the goal of the committee is to distribute DVDs of the video to all high schools in Texas. Louisiana and Mississippi.

CAPT Inc. Report – Joanna Kile (President CAPT, Inc.)

Joanna Kile reported on the current status of projects at Center for the Advance of Process Technology, Inc. Joanna reported the following:

PTEX Assessments

- CAPT, Inc. has issued several qualifications for the PTEX-CR exam to program graduates and new hires
- Test items for the PTEX-CI exam will be completed in January 2008 and be available for piloting. The committee developing the PTEX-CI exam will meet in January 2008 to identify learning objectives mapped to the test blueprint.
- Development of a PTEX-RI (Process Technology Examination for Refining Incumbent) will commence this spring.

Curriculum

- A new edition of the Introduction to Process Technology Instructor Manual and Student Workbook will be available in January 2008.
- A new edition of the Safety, Health and Environment Facilitator Guide will also be available In January 2008
- The Safety, Health and Environment Instructor Manual is currently under revision and is expected to be completed shortly.
- Work will begin on revising the Instrumentation textbook this spring.
- CAPT partners have identified a number of issues associated with the new TLM implementation, training, technology and software specific. Staff at CAPT, Inc. and TLM is committed to addressing issues prior to the spring semester.

New Business – Steve Ames (ExxonMobil/GCPTA President)

There was no new business.

Adjourn Meeting – Steve Ames (ExxonMobil/GCPTA President)

Steve Ames adjourned the meeting.

Future GCPTA Meetings

- ***Friday , January 25, 2008, South Shore Harbour, League City, Texas***
- ***Friday, April 25, 2008, Isle of Capri, Lake Charles, LA***
- ***Friday, July 25, 2008, South Shore Harbour, League City, Texas***
- ***Friday, November 7, 2008, Isle of Capri, Lake Charles, LA***

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Newby, Secretary

Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance

EN/hw