



MINUTES
BioMedical Engineering
Technology

October 13th - Zoom

Date of Meeting:

Members Present: Sidney Martin, Clint Perkinson, Carissa Roldan, Faith Pieterse, Jim Ruggiero, Rod Davis, Patricia Watts, Andrea Falvey, Meghan Cottrell, Natavia Middleton, Timothy Galvin, Monica Aurand, Brenda Thompson, Carlos Villafane, Jerome Ruffing, S Leithe, Siobhan Peterson

Members Excused: Brian Bell, Trenton McFarlane, Marilyn Browne, Ban Fumano, Wanda Kimsey, Chad Mairn

Others present: None

Call to order: 5:00 pm

Previous Minutes Approved:

Accepted by consensus

Unfinished Business:

- Chairperson position is still vacant

Program Updates:

- Enrollment was discussed as there are 60+ students currently enrolled. Enrollment is down, mimicking the pattern across the country. Down c. 18%.
- Ideas to increase enrollment welcomed.
- Course delivery continues to be in-person, online and hybrid.
- Classes generally are held in the evenings and over weekends offering more availability to many students who are working and then attending classes after work.
- Continuing to look at best times/days/modalities to maximize student enrollment.
- Dr Davis reported on the "Titan Exchange", a Work Force project on the Tarpon Springs campus to renovate c. 10,000 sq ft of the current warehouse into flexible workspace with areas to run courses, presentation area, offices, a Zoom room and manufacturing area to be used in partnership with local industry.
- Construction is to begin early 2023 and will hopefully be completed by the end of the year.
- Project "Titan Exchange" hopes to focus on building enrollment in the Biomedical Technology program.
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Subcommittee Reports:

None

Student Update:

None.

Career Outreach Specialist:

- Patricia Watts & Carissa Roldan – SPC has 5 Career Readiness Navigators and is in process of hiring a 6th
- 5 career readiness goals; 1. Career exploration, 2. Resume & cover letter writing, 3. Interview preparation, 4. Job & internship search strategies, 5. Creating your own personal brand
- Weekly workshops for students

New Business:

- Future Florida Critical Needs Grant: Project Manager Meghan Cottrell & Project Co-Ordinator Brenda Thompson
- Grant designed to support development of 9th grade through postsecondary professional pipelines
- Focuses on transitioning high school students into degree path and workforce
- High school students can earn industry credits and college credits
- SPC oversees Daytona State & South Florida State to ensure funds are wisely spent
- State designated areas of critical need are, Healthcare, Education, Supply Chain, Emergency Management & Law Enforcement
- SPC will focus on healthcare, which is a vital need in our community
- SPC is working with Pinellas County Schools to focus on new opportunities in the Biomedical Engineering Technology (BMET) area
- SPC is in the process of forming the BMET Academy which should open Fall 2023, based at Tarpon Springs
- Grant requires 1 certification & dual enrollment classes, but SPC has designed a program to include 3 credit bearing certificates & dual enrollment classes to allow students to graduate high school with an AS degree in Biomedical Engineering Technology.
- The Medical Device Networking and Cybersecurity is the only one of its kind in the country at the present time
- The demand from employers is to have people with experience and that experience can come from internships and practical experience

Industry Updates & Discussion:

Program Needs:

- Student recruitment
- The average age in the program is 32
- Suggestion to reach out to middle schools and get student interest started even before high school to build interest earlier
- Local BioMed Association (Calros Villafane) invites students to attend meetings to build interest

- 2 medical academies & 1 first responder academy in county, can we reach out to these academies to build interest?
- This career field is not well known, can we piggyback on pre-med programs and nursing programs?
- SPC recruitment team at college & career fairs – can BMET tag along? Catch student interest with something that catches their eye. For example, mechanical equipment – EKG, infusion pump, heart monitor & 3-d printer etc.
- Recruit internally from electronics program
- Biomedical brochures to be included during out-reach
- Clearwater Middle school’s engineering program. Hands on engagement, assisting with projects builds interest.
- Clearwater Middle school’s engineering program built Halloween decorations which were used during OKT-TO-CON where families could see student creations. Helps to build more interest in siblings.

Upcoming Events:

- November 3rd – Night of Science at STEM center

Meeting Adjournment: Called for 6:09 pm
