



MINUTES
Engineering Technology Advisory Board
April 7, 2020 Zoom Online

Date of Meeting:

4-7-20

Members Present:

Matthew Smith, Susan Biszewski-Eber, Lara Sharp, Joseph Benavides, Karen Sommerville, Heather Disler, James Sager, Michelle Hintz-Prange, Mike Brewster, Susan Garrett, Jerry Custin, Chris Cain, Ken Conforti, Scott Talcott, Beth Galic, Abdul Lateef, Marilyn Browne, Mike Ramsey

Members Excused:

Brian Bell, Greg Lewis, Lisa Maciolek, Steve Heppler, Mike Smith

Call to order:

Lara Sharp 11:34am

Unfinished Business:

Lara Sharp informed the group that research on an engineering technology BS degree at SPC has been tabled till the next advisory board meeting.

Program Updates:

Lara Sharp explained to the group that all spring engineering technology classes have been converted to online courses as of mid-March due to COVID-19 social distancing policies. Instructors are being creative using Zoom and Camtasia to lecture and record content. Lab kits are being sent to students to in the electronics classes to provide hands-on learning. She also announced that all summer classes will also be online.

The opportunity to take what is learned from putting engineering technology classes online can be used to expand course offerings in the future to increase enrollment and offer more flexible career planning.

Ms. Sharp also shared that the engineering technology and building arts department is 3D printing face shields and masks.

Industry Updates & Discussion:

Jerry Custin and Michell Hintz-Prange provided an update of the Tampa Bay Works Bootcamps offered by AmSkills. TSE Industries and Jabil sponsored the event that provided an opportunity for potential entry level employees to learn more about manufacturing through hands-on activities and interaction with employers. Both TSE Industries and Jabil hired participants from the bootcamp. The next bootcamp is scheduled for May, <https://www.amskills.org/news-events/event-calendar.html/event/2020/05/23/manufacturing-career-discovery-workshop-pasco-hernando-/288082>

Monin saw a substantial decrease in business once restaurants went to take out only. It has since started making hand sanitizer and is donating some to hospitals and first responders. It's new Nevada facility is currently shut down with a restart slated for June 1st.

Pinellas Economic Development is helping organize PPE materials and SBA loans.

SPC's METT mechatronics training grant is working on putting more of the required lab work online with simulation software. Program Manager, Chris Cain, sees this program as an opportunity for many of the COVID-19 furloughed workers to learn a new skill.

Raytheon is continuing as an essential business and is hiring assemblers and electronics techs. It is also donating face shields and protective suits to combat COVID-19.

BAMA is offering webinars for employers on COVID-19 issues. It is also a participant on a statewide outreach network that is being coordinated by FloridaMakes. A questionnaire on the health of manufacturing in Florida will be delivered to employers in the next few weeks. BAMA is also coordinating online training opportunities for employers.

Matt Smith from GE Aviation told the board about the skill set he sent to SPC's engineering technology electronics instructors in March. SPC's electronics instructor will crosswalk the skills list with SPC learning objectives. Lara Sharp requested that all the employers provide similar lists to SPC; especially, as the department gets ready to review course objectives.

Susan Biszewski-Eber reminded employers that new hires from the AmSkills bootcamp could be entered into an apprenticeship program to upskill and then articulate credit to SPC's engineering technology AS degree program. Susan has offered to help companies with the process.

Susan Garrett, SPC's Workforce Institute, is looking for employers who hire employees with criminal records to participate in a training grant between SPC and Goodwill. Interested employers can contact Susan Garrett at garrett.susan@spcollege.edu.

Future Topics:

- How does SPC's engineering technology program and manufacturing training adjust to the "new world" post COVID-19?
- Mapping out Pathways to Employment
- Employer hiring practices for applicants with criminal records.
- Lara Sharp will send out a poll to determine the next meeting in July/August 2020.

Adjournment: 12:36pm

Lara Sharp

Secretary