



Rockies Alliance for Process Technology

May 10, 2007

Alameda High School

Welcome

Lee Gouthier, RAPT president from Suncor USA welcomed the attendees and introduced our host Lane Warner, Science Teacher and process technology instructor at Alameda High School and Red Rocks Community College.

Process Technology Student Panel

Senior, Crystal Bienes —Alameda High School – Summer internship with Xcel Energy

Junior, Larron Webb —Alameda High School

Ed Jacques —Red Rocks Community College – Interning with Shell Oil Off Shore

Patrice E. – Red Rocks Community College – Interning with Xcel Energy

Students shared reasons for coming into the process technology program:

- Hands-on science labs
- Visits to real industries seeing examples of workers using the same skills reinforced in the classroom lab
- Excited about the careers with well paying employment in multiple process industries

The students have been successful in pursuing internships over the summer. As students are recruited by industry it is important to reinforce that students will have avenues for completing their education goals. Employment offers for legacy or long term positions are usually contingent on completion of education. However, in regions where near term or entry level labor is scarce students are recruited out of school as non-completers, which makes it more difficult for students to move vertically into higher skilled occupations.

Lane shared methods in which industry can support high school programs. High schools need donated equipment that supports the CAPT curriculum. (Need wish list?)

- High Schools need equipment from industry
- Industries team with educators as part of career fairs/community events
- As mobile recruitment center comes on line we will need industry members to attend with the center to talk to students and parents about career opportunities
- Internships for students over summer
- High school teacher externships to meet certification requirements of industry experience
Bob Topping shared the three week instructor training that is offered by College of Eastern Utah. The three week training covers oil, gas, and coal
- Scholarships (see further discussion below)

Discussion launched concerning developing a proposal to consider membership dues

Initial conversation concerning creating membership fees lead to further conversation about how the revenues from fees could be used to support students attending RAPT member schools. A suggestion was made to convene a sub team of RAPT/API members to develop a proposal for the consideration of the larger group. As a first step Ken Losasso can serve as a liaison with CAPT to seek their input in the development of the regional scholarship pool. Interested members in developing the scholarship proposal include, Evette Torres, Pam Arsenault, Joan Smith, Dale Doty, Ken Losasso. Contact Joan Smith joan.smith@rcc.edu if you want to be involved in the proposal development. Target is to have a proposal ready for group consideration by the next meeting of August 2.

Update: Center for the Advancement of Process Technology

Ken Losasso, Suncor USA, the RAPT liaison to the CAPT national committee gave an overview of the developing process operator certification program. Ken received feedback concerning aligning the proposed entry level assessment with existing placement exams already in use by colleges with the goal being that industry and education work toward development of a consistent metric. The overall group reaction was very positive in creating a capstone assessment that will be accepted by industry as an endorsement of the individual as job ready regardless of where the individual may have completed their preparation. The potential exists that the certification may be considered by industry in lieu of existing entry level assessments delivered by individual employers. CAPT may also want to consider reviewing the process to obtain master level certification with the Department of Labor to evaluate the possibility of adding a registered apprenticeship endorsement.

RAPT Common Themes – Round Table Discussion

- Math and science preparation for high school students

Math teachers from area high schools are working together with industry to develop a high school math course that uses real scenarios from industry. The teachers described other successful curricula models that has merged industry practices to reinforce how math is used in the workplace. The WIRED grant managed by the Metro Denver Economic Development Council has awarded a jump start grant to Red Rocks which will be used to pay for the initial development of the curriculum. The math course development is in response to the higher than average failure rate of younger students in Red Rocks' process technology courses in the ability to transfer theoretical math knowledge to real world applications.

- Marketing

Chuck Beck described the 26 messaging centers that will be part of the Mobile Recruitment Center. The Center will feature 4 process industry sectors: Power Generation, Food and Beverage, Oil and Gas Production, and Oil and Gas Manufacturing. Chuck needs messaging pieces from industry that include 100 word text messages that will be produced in large wall plaques, pictures of real people doing real work, and video/CD materials for screen display at the industry stations. Please forward materials to chuck.beck@rcc.edu. The grand opening of the Mobile Recruitment Center is planned for the last week in June, 2007.

- Engaging and sustaining industry involvement in developing workforce education

Pam Arsenault shared information about a new course under development to reinforce ethical behaviors when developing land resources used by the energy industry. The course is targeted to regions that are regularly negotiating land transactions with energy industries. Contact arsenault@coloradomtn.edu for more information.

Next Meeting

August 2

Green Center at the Colorado School of Mines; Petroleum Hall for the meetings and in Friedhof Hall for lunch. <http://www.mines.edu/outreach/public/gcevents/>

Pre Meeting Tour, August 1

Wells Center (Health Care workforce training facility—an excellent model of workforce development). Watch for details. Questions concerning the Wells Center may be directed to heidi.bimmerle@state.co.us.

Hotels in the area:

<http://hotel-guides.us/colorado/lakewood-co-hotels.html>

Suncor USA will be hosting our refreshments and lunch for the August 2 meeting. Please let joan.smith@rrcc.edu know if you have dietary restrictions.

Thank you Suncor USA.