

Strategic Planning Community Outreach – Petro Chemical Texas City Plant Managers

On August 8th I attended the Texas City Plant Managers Monthly luncheon at the Port of Texas City Building at the invitation of Peter Nowobilski from BP. Attendance at the luncheon included Plant Managers from BP, Valero, Eastman, Marathon, Oil Tanking, and Dow Chemical.

These included Sergio Matute (Eastman Chemical), Roselle Bleile (Dow Chemical) , Karol Chapman (Port of Texas City), Rich Hernandez (Marathon), Sal Viscontini, (Valero), and Scooter Wilson (Oiltanking).

Overall, the image and reputation of the College and our student graduates were satisfactory. The Process Technology Program (P-Tech) is considered a high quality program and the plant managers were satisfied with the graduates. Mention was made that all graduates should be provided additional training in critical thinking and problem solving skills. Specifically, graduates should have additional experience in diagnosing and solving problems.

The managers believed that the P-Tech program was producing an adequate number of graduates and the College should consider offering additional programs in areas of Instrumentation and Electrical; Analyzers, and Machinists. All managers agreed that they do not need pipe fitters and welders, as they contract out when needed.

It was strongly suggested that a program for Certified Safety Professionals be created, as the need for the CSP is strong at the plants. Another area of programmatic need is in the field of Automation. Specifically targeting skills in programmable logic and process control. Managers emphasized their need was not in the area of robotics, but did not know if other industries might need that speciality.

Next Steps – Action Items

- Academic Affairs should develop a feasibility study and survey to assess the need and viability of programs in:
 - Certified Safety Professionals
 - Automation (Advanced Mechatronics)
 - Instrumentation and Electronics
 - Analyzers
 - Machinists
- Review and Update the Advisory Board committee membership for technical programs to ensure programs are remaining current and responsive to the needs of business and industry.