

## MINUTES

### **Banner Center for Energy Focus Group Meeting**

Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Friday, February 26, 2010

1:00 AM - 4:00 PM

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

*Dr. Jay Matteson*, Director of Institute for Energy & Environmental Sustainability, welcomed all those in attendance to the Banner Center for Energy's Focus Group Meeting at Palm Beach State College (PBSC). Dr. Matteson reaffirmed the strong focus on curriculum and workforce development with industry's needs at the forefront.

#### **Current Curriculum Update**

Lab Volt Corporation demonstrated energy-efficient home monitoring software and discussed option and needs of the energy industry with a focus on future curriculum development.

##### Curriculum Development

- Lab-Volt is a global leader in the design and manufacture of hands-on training laboratories that prepare students for technical careers.
- High-quality, cost-effective instructional systems are offered that integrate the latest technological advances.
- Offer comprehensive, multimedia-rich, e-learning, blended learning, and custom learning solutions, as well as extensive, cutting-edge, hands-on and simulation training curriculum.
- Fields currently include Electricity and Electronics, Electric Power, Telecommunications, Fluid Power, Instrumentation and Process Control, Automation and Robotics, and Air Conditioning and Refrigeration.

##### Industry Advancement

- Existing partnerships with industry are strong and have led to the development of current software.
- The goal is to produce learning tools for the advancement of the energy industry.
- Software demonstrated on energy-efficient homes can be a unique and effective method for teaching Smart Home/Smart Grid applications to a great number of people.
- Program teaches energy efficient practices and can be expanded to incorporate applications in:
  - Renewable Energy
  - Power Generation
  - Smart Grid

### **Focused Discussion – Industry’s Needs**

Round table discussion ensued on how to incorporate learning modules into current curriculum development planning. Habitat for Humanity presented smart, energy-efficient home building as a living, learning laboratory project.

### **Action Items:**

- Areas to look at include renewable energy, power generation, and smart grid technology.

Opportunities at present: cross-training

- Utility Companies: IT personnel understanding power generation and power technicians/engineers understanding IT issues.
- Hospitals: Network groups understanding equipment and equipment technicians understanding network issues.
- Manufacturing Sites: Network groups understanding process engineering and process engineering understanding network issues.
- Buildings: Facilities personnel understanding power storage, networks, and IT solutions.
- Utility companies: Customer service personnel understanding data storage, data analysis, and energy efficient practices.
- Manufacturing: Technicians and engineers understanding cycle lifetimes, and energy efficiency.

Creating a living, learning environment

- The use of building design and the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system as teaching tools.
- A learning laboratory can be created to introduce the community to energy efficiency and energy efficient design.
- Looking to adopt a neighborhood and make it current and energy efficient.
- Collaboration between businesses, education, workforce development and community leaders is needed for renewable energy projects.
- Applied research—how to get the community on their way to a green economy? Idea is to test all energy saving initiatives and tell the community what works.
- Communities can build their own micro grids and put solar energy initiatives into practice as well.

*Jose Farinos, Director Banner Center for Energy, Dean of Advanced Technology, Indian River State College* thanked everyone for their participation in the Banner Center for Energy’s Focus Group Meeting. The Banner Center holds advisory meetings and focus group meetings in order to keep education aligned with industry needs in the energy field.

*Dr. Jay Matteson*, lead a tour through the Palm Beach State College facilities.