



# Meeting Summary

## **FLATE INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday, January 14, 2016**

**Lake Sumter State College  
Sumter Center  
1405 County Road 526A  
Clark Maxwell Building  
Sumterville, FL 33585**

### **FLATE Participants:**

#### Members Present

including call ins: Tina Brudnicki, Mark Gaudio, Janice Mukhia.

FLATE members: Marilyn Barger, Brad Jenkins, Richard Gilbert, Danielly Orozco, Phil Centonze.

LSSC Present: Eugene Jones, Bob Seigworth, Stephanie Brinkley, Robert Frank.

Guests Present: Michael Wright, Ron Seel, Patrick Foster, James Witt, Mike Jennings, Jada Ciftci, and 17 students from the Relay Technology program.

Members Excused: Richard Hyatt, Eric McClendon, June Wolfe, Margi Lee, Nancy Stephens, Sherry Reeves, Mike Ennis, Maricka Rogers, Terry Warner, Roy Sweatman, Rob Adamiack, Drew Hoff, Jake Prokop, Becky Burton

The was a special FLATE IAC meeting as it was the first visit to Lake Sumter State College. A tour of the new Relay Substation, constructed with a number of industrial partners, including Duke Energy, began at 4:30PM, at the at the Sumter Center. Over 25 members, guests, and students participated in the tour, conducted by Bob Seigworth, Director of Engineering Technology and Manager of the RelayTechnology Program at Lake Sumter. Everyone enjoyed the tour that included the transformer yard and the active control center.

### **Welcome and Introduction of Committee Members and Guests:**

Eugene Jones, Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs, welcomed FLATE and the guests to LSSC and the Sumter Center. Dr. Jones provided an overview of the College and Center with the programs and services they provide to Sumter and Lake counties. He also introduced Stephanie Brinkley, Manager, Workforce Educational Programs at LSSC, and Jada Ciftci, from the Sumter County Economic Development Administration.

Tina Brudnicki, chairperson of the FLATE IAC, welcomed the advisory members, the call in members, and guests to the FLATE IAC Meeting. A WebX collaborative web session conference call was provided by FLATE, in Tampa, for those members calling in from around the state.

### **FLATE Overview:**

Marilyn Barger, Executive Director FLATE, presented an overview of the goals and activities of FLATE. Marilyn also reported on the data related to the Florida Engineering Technology and related program student enrollment and completion figures for the 2010 - 2015 year periods. The ET degree started with 3 community colleges in 2008 and now there are 19 community and state colleges offering the Engineering Technology degree in 2015, with now 11 specializations. The new colleges coming on line this past year included Pasco Hernando State College, Lake Sumter State College, and Palm Beach State College.

Marilyn distributed the FLATE 2015 Project Highlights booklet describing the organizational, curriculum, professional development, and outreach activities associated with the FLATE goals. Marilyn also reported that the FLATE Industry and Education Awards Candidates, previously hosted by the Manufacturers Association of Florida (MAF), will now be hosted by the Florida Association for Career Technical Education (FACTE) at their annual meeting under the Industrial Manufacturing program session. The categories include the Manufacturing Secondary Educator of the Year, the Manufacturing Post- Secondary Educator of the Year, and the Distinguished Industry Service Award. This change will ensure sustainability for the awards over time.

Marilyn also provided additional information concerning the Robotics and Engineering Camps that will be expanded around the state this summer, the Professional Development workshops, and the alignment of the Florida Machining curriculum frameworks to the NIMS credentials. Marilyn also reported on the success of the Manufacturing Day activities from 2015.

For additional information, please visit the FLATE website at [www.fl-ate.org](http://www.fl-ate.org).

### **FLATE Stakeholders Survey:**

Phil Centonze, FLATE's outside evaluator, presented the results of FLATE's annual Stakeholders Survey that was distributed this past fall with 194 responses. Some of the topics that participants were asked to evaluate included: Awareness of FLATE's Services, Access to FLATE's staff and products, FLATE's "Made in Florida" outreach materials and activities, Professional Development Initiatives, Curriculum Activities, and Available Curriculum materials. Overall the survey was most positive about FLATE and Phil's only recommendation would have FLATE increase their outreach activities as indicated from the survey.

### **Lake Sumter Industry Partners Panel:**

Bob Seigworth introduced the industry panel members that represented the companies that provided equipment and materials for the Relay Substation.

The panel members with their respected company were:

Michael Wright, Power Grid; Ron Seel, Doble Engineering; Patrick Foster, City of Leesburg Electric Department, James Witt, CEMAX International Building Materials, and Mike Jennings, Schweitzer Engineering Labs.

The panel discussed how they got involved with the program, their role and contributions to the Relay Technology program, the CO-OP or internship opportunities for the students, and their future employment needs in this industry. The discussion also concerned the employment needs in the power industry as many retirements that will occur in a few years; the use of automation and the skills required for that aspect of control, and how do we get students interested in power when the focus is on other technologies that are more attractive at this time.

Mike Jennings provided an presentation on the overview of Schweitzer and their digital protective relays, rotary switches, and software that are being used for control systems.

Michael Wright presented “Addressing the Generation Gap” indicating the shortage of electrical power programs and the problems associated with finding new workers. This is a major situation for the power industry and the universities and colleges are not addressing this problem for additional B.S. degree graduates in electrical power.

#### **LSSC - AS degree in Engineering Technology - Relay Technology:**

Robert Frank, Lead Instructor in Engineering Technology, presented the new 60 credit hour Associate in Science degree program in Engineering Technology, the Relay Technology Program. The program began last fall with 18 students enrolling in this new program. After 2 semesters the students can apply for externships paid by the local electrical utility or related industries. The students are coming from all over the state and Georgia to enroll in the program along with the recruiting of students in the local high schools. This program is preparing students for careers as line workers in the electrical utility industry with course work in electrical distribution, pole line equipment usage, electrical distribution substation work, energy management, and utility maintenance. This program is the first of this type in the state of Florida.

#### **New Business and Open Forum:**

With no further business, Tina thanked the industrial panel, the students, along with the staff from LSSC for hosting the IAC meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM

#### **Date for next Industrial Advisory Meeting:**

**Thursday, May 12, 2016 - Pharma Works, Odessa, Pasco County**

Respectively submitted,

Brad Jenkins