

# Electronics Technology Advisory Board Meeting

March 3, 2010, 12:30 pm

EI 115

Present: Dave Arndt (presiding), Megan Graham, Susan Franklin, Jon Blesi, Lesley Travers, Randy Evans, John Miller, Ernie Scott, Chris Riley

- I. Last meeting minutes approval
  - i. No minutes for last meeting.
- II. Enrollment
  - i. It was low up until this Fall, but have been getting more students in Spring.
  - ii. Enrollment is up a little.
  - iii. Large group graduating this year, small one next year.
  - iv. Does not know if current economy is going to affect it.
  - v. Megan and Susan have developed an electrical fire class. Students are required to take 3 or 4 electronic classes within the robotics and renewable energy programs. So electronics has also turned into a major support area for other programs.
  - vi.
- III. Employment opportunities
  - i. Things are tight all over the country and people aren't hiring.
  - ii. Bresnan still hiring entry level people for installation. Having a hard time filling regional positions with the kind of training needed. Those are really good are already employed and not willing to move. Looking for CISCO certifications, 2 & 4 year degrees with networking background. Some of installs have slowed down because people don't have the money to spend on entertainment.
  - iii. Randy Evans from API Systems Integrators has had a number of people come through the door for hiring, but most of them don't have training. Looking for CC's help to get some students that have some training. Has been in contact with a state licensing board for low voltage electricians. Any training CC can provide can go towards that license. Have to have 4000 hours for that license. Problem CC has had with their low voltage prep is that the state is very picky with their requirements and we have to have a qualified program to transfer into. Randy would like to be an intermediary between the state board and CC. Megan pointed out that if there is something CC can do, to let us know. Dave said that the state does recognize his fiber optic class as continuing ed.

- iv. Chris Riley from Wyoming Medical Center needs bio med techs, but they are a very stable industry and don't tend to move around. Opportunities are becoming more open in the computer/network side of things. No matter how technology driven bio tech is, there is still blood/surgery involved. The IS department is always changing. They are getting involved on the patient side of things such as with the EKG machine for data transfer. Still a unique niche on the patient side of things
- v. Ernie Scott from Inter-Mountain Labs in Sheridan: Water, soil and air quality analysis. Ambient air pollution monitoring. Work with data processing and assimilating. They integrate with telecommunications. This type of a program, the good employees are great with electronics. Don't have a lot of opportunities, but every so often jobs do open up. Don't need certifications, besides safety MSHA certifications to go into mining sites. Work with Nevada a lot in the mines. Whatever the client's encounter that they need, the company does. They need someone who can think on their feet, have computer skills and travel a lot. Megan asked if they ever donate old equipment. Ernie pointed out that they do have some old equipment and that is a possibility. So far Inter-Mountain has not been affected by the economic downfall, hence why they are hiring a couple of positions. Do manufacture some equipment: Flow meter/micro controller, Infra sound monitoring sensors.

#### IV. New skills for students

- i. What skills do our students need at this point? They are coming out with sensors, fiber optics, computer skills, basic, c programming, visual programming.
- ii. Bresnan pointed out that need UNIX skills.
- iii. Chris said still need people with good fundamental skills, that can think on their feet.
- iv. Ernie needs database programmers, coding skills. Sequel server with visual basic or c sharp.
- v. Randy is getting into access control. Getting more and more into as they progress in the access control. Computer skills, troubleshooting skills, a little bit of networking background. A lot of their fire alarm panels require downloading and uploading programming, changing the programming and making it work. Also hyperterminal.
- vi. Megan said the issue is a bit of a disconnect. They work with hyperterminal at CC, but then go on job and it seems foreign to the student.

#### V. Advisory board survey

- i. Please fill out the survey included in packet. We need it for our accreditation report. One of our goals is that your survey tells us what we need to know. Let us know both positive and negative responses. Modifying things to work with the industry.
- ii. Ernie asked if we offered technical writing.
- iii. Jon said that our English department will not teach it.

- iv. Jon and Megan said they do have to write up their labs.
- VI. Randy's proposal
- i. The president of API asked if CC would like to partner with them. Would supply a couple of fire panels on campus and teach students how to work with the panel, working with the sensors and how they work. Would you like to partner and how can we get started on it?
  - ii. Will give the students a little edge when they come out in the real world. Also work intensely with CCTV and access control and nurse call and life safety. Life safety is the backbone of safety care and these needs to work properly. Let Randy know what you come up with and they can get the ball rolling.
  - iii. Dave pointed out that this would work well with their new security systems class.
  - iv. Randy asked if there are any buildings that need fire alarms in them, or maybe a couple of buildings can be networked together.
  - v. CC has FP200's here and those are API panels.
  - vi. Has replacements for the FP200's that can be used for the program.
  - vii. Dave asked if Randy would be willing to come up as a part time instructor. Randy would need to ask the president, but would be willing to work as a consultant and would like to train CC instructors.
  - viii. Dave asked if some of the instructors could work on the job full time in the summer at API to learn. Randy would like to get someone involved in an install so they can see the wire pulling to the install in the end.
- VII. General discussion
- i. Next Tuesday we are having a career day on campus. It is a good place to come up and talk to our students to let them know what you are looking for. Also good ways to talk to students you are interested in hiring. Job hunting, job interest for our own students. Potential employees a few years down the line.
  - ii. Also, last year started utility locator cert program. It is booming. Spring classes are almost all full. Summer classes are also open. Students can register online. To do this they can go to CC website, go to A-Z and go to U for Utility Locator. It will tell you cost, dates and when you can register. Certification is through top utility locator service in the nation right now. \$150 a week. We are the western hub for state certification. One Call donated money to start the program.
  - iii. Megan will do a tour of the facilities after meeting is adjourned.

Adjourned 1:56pm

*Rachel Wright*