

**BANNER CENTER FOR AGRISCIENCE
AG INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
FLORIDA FARM BUREAU BUILDING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9 2011**

The Employ Florida Banner Center for Agriscience Agriculture Industry Advisory Council meeting was called to order by Council Chair Phoebe Raulerson at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 9, 2011. The meeting was held in the Auditorium at the Florida Farm Bureau Building pursuant to notice duly given.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

The welcome was given by Chair Phoebe Raulerson. Chair Phoebe stated she was very excited about the role this group was playing in agricultural education and what this work would mean for the agricultural industry.

PRESENT: Glen Horvath (in for David Still), Erin Best, Hugh English, John Piersol, Mark Greef, Merry Mott, Phoebe Raulerson, Richard Joyner, Shane Conley, Todd Lawrence, Belinda Chason, Amy McAllister, Erica Der, Dr. Andrew Thoron (in for Dr. Brian Myers), Frankie Hall, Sarah Burleson (in for Melissa Raburn) and Ronnie Simmons

GUESTS: Jessica Blythe, Earl Raulerson

ABSENT: April Butler, Chris Wilder, Jana Register, Jerry Davis, Michelle Williamson, Randy Strode, Rick Roth, Ron Wetherington, Time Stokes, and Tony Wallace.

BANNER CENTER UPDATE:

*Sarah Burleson, Interim Program Coordinator reviewed the Work Force Florida Deliverables. All deliverables have been submitted for the 2010-2011 contract year. Payments have been received on all deliverables submitted.

*Contract Overview: All the deliverables for the 2011-2012 contract year were explained. Sarah stated that the majority of the deliverables were the same from previous years. The area where we see change is in the development of a business plan. This business plan will indicate to WFI that we are able to be sustainable following the completion of our grant.

Mr. Joyner asked for further explanation about Deliverable 4, Training agreements within and outside the state of Florida. It was explained that we were looking to associations or organizations within Georgia or Delaware to promote the products we have already developed for their use.

*Curriculum Update: This year we are working on the development of Agricultural Mechanics and Aquaculture curricula. The curriculum development process will begin with our framework

revision committee which we have scheduled for September 14th. Teachers and Industry members have already been identified to serve on those committees.

Erica Der asked how new teachers know about the Caert Curriculum. Belinda Chason responded and said that our agricultural education students have a training session prior to their internship that trains them on the use of the Caert materials.

Erica then asked if there was any way we could find out how many teachers actually use the curriculum. Belinda said that Caert has the ability to track how many times the teacher has accessed the materials. Erica suggested we look into this so that we can get a better understanding of how many teachers are using the curriculum that has been developed.

YEAR SUMMARY/EXPECTATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR:

*Frankie Hall, Grant Administrator reported this year will be our last year on the Workforce Florida grant.

*Frankie discussed the development of two new programs within Farm Bureau that will continue the duties of the Banner Center once the grant has concluded. The first program is the Center for Agriculture Education. The Center will be responsible for the development of curriculum just as we have done with the grant. The Center will also seek other organizations for which we can develop curriculum aside from secondary education. Currently, we are in the process of working with Agriculture Law Enforcement Officers within the State of Florida to develop a curriculum about animal husbandry so that officers know how to handle animal welfare cases when they are called.

* Frankie then reported on the development of the second program which is Agriculture Education Services and Technology, Inc. (AEST). This program will be charged with the development of certification exams for both secondary education and certification exams for entities such as Ag Law who are looking for a certification for their Officers so that they have credentials in a specified area.

* Frankie then addressed Richard Joyner's earlier concern of training agreements outside the state of Florida. Frankie stated this would be an area where we could collaborate with Ag Law Officers outside Florida to provide the same type of training. Frankie also said that he had spoke with individuals at ABAC about the development of a partnership with our curriculum and certification program.

CERTIFICIATION UPDATE:

*Sarah Burleson reported on the Agritechnology certification exams that have already been administered. 56 individuals have taken the exam and of those, 71% have passed. 23 teachers took the exam and all passed. 33 students took the exam and 51% passed.

Belinda Chason stated that this certification was added to the funding list, retroactive for the 2010-2011 school year. Because of this, not many teachers knew this certification was available for their students to take at the end of last school year.

Sarah added that many CTE directors and Agriculture Teachers have contacted her and they are interested in setting up an exam date to administer the exam to their students.

*Sarah then showed the council the certification packet the student will receive if they pass the certification exam. It is a folder that includes a congratulatory letter, a certificate and a certification card that has their picture and certification number. The certification number can be verified on the certification website, www.fbaest.com.

Erica Der suggested that in the packet we include a letter to the employee that explains what this certification means. She also suggested that we provide the student with some information to explain what the certification.

Frankie stated that we are very heavily trying to market this certification to the Farm Bureau members, but agreed that it was important to inform employers about the significance of the certification.

Ronnie Simmons suggested that we provide a checklist of competencies in the folder that the student can provide to the employer that will list the skills they are proficient in which is reflected in the fact that they have obtained this certification.

Dr. Andrew Thoron added that we should also put more information on the certification website for employers who are looking for more detailed information about what the student is capable of because they have obtained this certification.

Erica agreed with all of these ideas and stated that she thought it was important we help employers understand what this certification means because the students should not have to sell the certification. Putting this certification on their resume should be enough for the employer to realize this is a valuable certification.

Todd Lawrence then asked what happens when the certification expires, are their continuing education courses available or do they have to take the exam again.

Frankie stated that we have not discussed that yet, as we were just trying to make our first certification available.

Merry Mott stated that FNGLA has certain courses through IFAS Extension that will count as continuing education credits to renew certification.

Belinda stated it would be very important for us to figure out what we will do when the certification expires because teachers, who need to be certified in order to have a CAPE Academy, will need to renew their certification.

Belinda then referred back to our earlier conversation about ensuring that we market this certification to Farm Bureau members so that they are aware of the skilled workforce that will be available for employment.

Frankie then asked Belinda or Amy McAllister to explain where funding originates for these certification exams.

Amy stated that money can come from a variety of areas because it is up to the school district. She stated that some school districts are using Perkins money, while others are having their Agriculture Department account pay for the exams.

Frankie expressed his concern that he did not feel that was a secure source for receiving funds. He was afraid that there would be no where to get money because of the economic situation.

Amy then explained that schools will get money back when a student passes the exam. She also stated that passing exam scores help school grades. Thus, she felt confident that a principal would take the necessary steps to ensure that there was funding available for students to take these certification exams.

AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY UPDATE:

*Dr. Andrew Thoron reported on the agricultural biotechnology certification that the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication at the University of Florida is preparing. He stated the question writing process was about half complete and we should expect all the questions and the first draft of the exam to be completed by September 15th. From there, they would begin piloting the exam in hopes of the final list of questions and final draft of the exam being completed by May 2012.

Belinda stated there was a possibility that this exam could be added to the funding list, retro-active for the 2011-2012 school year, however there was no way to know that for certain, so the exam is being prepared for administration in the 2012-2013 school year.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION UPDATE:

* Amy McAllister, State Supervisor for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, stated there are 20 new agricultural biotechnology programs opening this year, thus we should see an increase in the number of students enrolled in this program.

CAPE Academy registration is now open, and teachers or districts can register their CAPE Academy for the 2011-2012 school year.

Agriscience Foundations will now be counted as an equally rigorous science credit that students can use for graduation.

Industry certification exams are under review to determine their weight for FTE funding. This weight equates to a dollar amount that the school will receive back if a student passes an industry certification exam. 80% of the money earned from a student passing an exam will return to the program from which the student originated.

There is one 7th grade and two 8th grade year long courses that are being developed for the 2011-2012 school year.

There is a 5 year plan in progress for the development of Middle School CAPE Academies.

After Amy's report, Chair Phoebe Raulerson commented that we should share the information about the development of certification and the fact that schools can register CAPE Academies using our certification as well as our courses that meet STEM requirements at State High School Principals meetings or with the Superintendants Association. Phoebe felt that many high school principals may not be aware of the opportunities, but if they were aware, we would see an increase in the number of CAPE Academies or agriculture programs because of what students can earn through these programs.

MEETING DATES FOR NEXT YEAR:

*Chair Raulerson stated that our next meeting would be in February. The group decided that our meeting would be held February 1st in Gainesville at the Farm Bureau Building from 10 am- 12 noon.

CLOSING COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Raulerson stated she has been very impressed with individuals on the Advisory Council and others who have been involved in the Banner Center this year. She felt that we were doing really great things that are going to have a great impact on agriculture education and the agricultural industry.

Frankie Hall thanked the members of the Advisory committee for their dedication to this board and persistence in making things happen.

Belinda Chason reiterated Frankie' point in that she was pleased with what the Council has done and stated that our Banner Center serves as an example for others about how a Banner Center should operate, and that was due, in large part to this advisory council.

There being no further business to come before the Banner Center for Agriscience Industry Advisory Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:45am.