

Minutes

Aerospace Resource Center (ARC) of Florida

The third meeting of the ARC Advisory Council convened on March 29, 2007 at Piper Aircraft, Inc. in Vero Beach, Florida. The meeting was preceded by a tour of the Piper Aircraft Facility which commenced at 10:15 a.m., after which lunch was served in the Piper conference room. The Advisory Council meeting was conducted from 12:45 to 3:00.

Council Members present: Andy Anderman (Florida Department of Education), Casey Barnes (Enterprise Florida), George Hauer (Wyle Laboratories), Adrian Lafitte (Lockheed Martin Space Systems), Cesar Levy (Florida International University), Dave Morrow (Piper Aircraft), J.B. Renninger (Florida Community College of Jacksonville), Milo Srkal (representing DayJet), and Doug Howse (representing Brevard Community College/SpaceTEC).

Others present: Edward Ellegood, Sam Fischer, Jennifer Thomas, and Amber Harrell

Council Members absent: Dr. Al Koller, Tom Shiner, Traver Gruen-Kennedy, Paul Bartlett, Harry Brandon, Francis Ayers, John Stutts, Marshall Heard, Richard DeMarco, and Tommy Mack

Welcome

Program Manager Mitch Kozak extended opening welcome to attendees—thanking Piper Aircraft, Inc. in general and Dave Morrow and his staff in particular for the opening tour, lunch, and hosting the ARC Advisory Council. Mr. Jim Bass, President and CEO of Piper Aircraft, gave a short overview of the Piper organization and fielded questions about Piper operations. Mr. Steve Johnston, Director Human Resources, provided a brief history of Piper aircraft—culminating with the new Piper jet. After self introductions by all attendees, the program manager reviewed the meeting agenda—highlighting the ARC completion of its initial year and actions taken to posture the Center for year 2.

Program Manager's Report

- Program manager updated council members on some recent history regarding the evolution of the Resource Center. The ARC was originally funded as an aviation and space industry “cluster” center by a \$1.2 million award from Workforce Florida, Inc. using federal workforce development funds. In spring of 2006, the Florida legislature appropriated \$4 million in general revenue to establish Employ Florida Banner Centers, an initiative that focused on the development of workforce skills to meet the demand of industries critical to Florida’s economy. These industries included—in addition to aviation and space—logistics and distribution, manufacturing, financial services, biotechnology, financial services, homeland security, construction, and health services.

The ARC was launched as the first Employ Florida Banner Center during an August 2006 press conference. Joining with the other industry-specific Banner Centers, the ARC's mission to focus on training needs of aviation and space companies will integrate into Employ Florida's efforts to meet the current as well as future workforce development needs of the state's targeted industries.

- The Aviation and Space Training Coordinators provided a review of Year One curriculum development and delivery activities. Spurred by Needs Assessment that identified industry-driven workforce requirements, each coordinator managed design and presentation of five curricula addressing their respective industry's workforce needs and were on-track to delivering that training to 100 students by June 30, 2007. Issues affecting future development efforts in this area included identifying industries' long-term training needs, securing necessary developer/instructor resources, and identifying additional/expanded training outreach opportunities.

Looking Ahead to Year Two

The major part of the Council meeting focused on planning activities to transition to year two efforts to address aerospace industry workforce development. The following summarize issues discussed by the Council that will impact ARC curriculum strategies and activities in Year Two:

- Industry **surveys** on workforce requirements and training needs should continue as means for expanding training curriculum offerings to industry. Year two efforts will concentrate on **focus group** activities to capture regional workforce development needs in select northern, Space Coast, panhandle, and southern Florida counties.
 - Contacts with area representatives willing to assist in focus group activities have been established.
 - A model/process was offered and agreed on for collecting information related to current and future workforce training (skill sets and knowledge base) needs for both entry-level and incumbent workers as well as industry trends and required industry certifications.
- Space industry innovations and technology suggest continued need for **curriculum** development to support the creation of new jobs in space transportation and tourism.
- The termination of the shuttle program will significantly effect the composition and skills requirements of the **ORION/ARES workforce**. Mr. Hauer (Wyle Labs) volunteered to help track down NASA data for the ARC on workforce changeover/rightsizing. This information will prove useful in aligning displaced workers with future job requirements and assisting in the design of training to support that transition.
 - Industry values training that awards **industry-recognized certification**. Nonetheless, council discussions reveal that industry treats new hires as *new* workers and will require subsequent in-house training and oversight. Piper Aircraft, for example, is developing in-house certifications for their workers.
 - In a similar vein, discussions on **workforce training** revealed industry preference for train-the-trainer programs or having the ARC provide curriculum to industry

for delivery by in-house trainers. This is decidedly different from the community college-delivered training model. In establishing policy for delivery of industry-based training, the ARC will seek solutions that best address the desires of all stakeholders.

- Partnerships can prove useful in addressing industry (company) specific needs. DayJet, pioneer in regional air-taxi operations, will require a significant number of pilots for their very light jet aircraft. Instead of training pilots, the ARC can provide value by helping make existing pilot training **relevant** to associated VLJ industries.
- **Education** is a key element of the aerospace pipeline. Dr Cesar Levy (FIU) addressed the benefits of “Aeronautics Learning Laboratory for Science Technology and Research” (**ALLSTAR**)—an FIU-sponsored website that espouses lifelong learning in aviation and space. General discussion items included:
 - Using ALLSTAR educational materials and distributing to local schools
 - Working with local Department of Education leaders on how to encourage the younger generation to take note of working in the aerospace arena
 - Encouraging high schools to open labs for ARC curriculum
- Council members were briefed that there were presently no **funds** in the FY2007-2008 state budget to fund follow-on year activities of the ten Banner Centers. Given the role Banner Centers play in integrating entry and incumbent worker training with industry workforce development, industry representatives on the Council were asked to contact local state representatives and senators to request funding support for the coming budget to sustain Banner Center development. Agreed on actions called for the ARC to draft a letter of support and forward to members for their consideration in corresponding with their state legislators.

Next Meeting: Next meeting of the ARC Advisory Council was tentatively set for late May – early June. There was general support for this Council meeting to be via teleconference.

The meeting adjourned around 3:00 p.m.

MITCH KOZAK, Program Manager
Aerospace Resource Center of Florida