

**Banner Center for Aviation & Space/Aerospace Resource Center (ARC)**  
**Advisory Council Meeting – March 13, 2008**  
*Minutes*

J. B. Renninger, Banner Center principal, opened the meeting by welcoming ARC Council members and thanking Adacel Systems, Inc.—particularly Mark Creasap, Daphne Corrado, and staff—for their hospitality and support hosting the spring 2008 meeting of the ARC Advisory Council in Orlando. The Advisory Council meeting was conducted from 9:30 to 3:00 and included a tour of the Adacel facilities and demonstrations of aerospace simulation equipment.

Council Members attendees: Mark Creasap (Adacel Systems, Inc.), Sean Gallagan (George T. Baker Aviation High School), Jorge Guerra (Broward Community College), Marshall Heard (Florida Aviation Aerospace Alliance), Jason Annunziata (JetBlue), Percy Luney (Space Florida), Malcolm Murphy (DayJet Corporation), Eric Nakamura (representing Brevard Job Link), Tom Shiner (Workforce Florida), J.B. Renninger (Florida Community College of Jacksonville), and Robert Ward (representing Brevard Community College/SpaceTEC).

Others present: Sam Fischer (ARC Aviation Training Coordinator)

### **Welcome/Overview**

Program Manager Mitch Kozak extended opening welcome to attendees. After self introductions by all attendees, the program manager reviewed the meeting agenda—which included results of recently completed year one deliverables, year two goals and expectations, the Space Workforce Transition Plan, and the role industry certifications serve in the development of secondary career academy curricula.

### **Program Manager's Report**

- Program manager reviewed status of contract deliverables and the strategic focus for year two—review highlights included:
  - The ARC 2006 Needs Assessment served as the basis for the 10 curricula developed in year one. Subsequent ARC-sponsored training produced 181 course training completions and 24 new placements into industry. Regional focus group activities will augment the Needs Assessment to drive year 2 curriculum development and workforce training efforts in addressing industry-driven workforce requirements;
  - The ARC's Strategic Plan focus—workforce development, sustainment of the Resource Center, and economic development—is addressed by three distinct objectives in year two—additional industry-driven curriculum, revenue generation through partnerships with industry and education, and the Space Workforce Transition Plan spurred by the termination of the Shuttle Program in 2010.
  - An overarching theme—industry pipeline development—will be pursued via industry certifications in support of Career Academy development and year two deliverables calling for creating Career Pathways models and a marketing DVD designed to promote the aerospace industry and career opportunities.

- An Implementation Plan providing a roadmap for year 2 deliverables was forwarded to WFI on February 28, 2008.

### **Focus Group Activities/Curriculum Development Recommendations**

- The ARC Training Coordinator provided a brief overview on three recently completed Focus Group activities [Jacksonville, south Florida, and the Panhandle area] aimed at capturing and assessing industry needs. Focus Groups identified nine (9) potential training areas that address a wide range of industry-identified requirements. The Advisory Council was asked for their recommendations as to a prioritized list of curricula to be developed.

Action Item: After reviewing the training options and relevant assessment criteria, each member was asked to complete a Weighted Criteria Matrix and offer their recommendation on the top development priorities. The ARC staff will collate this information and provide to the ARC Executive Board which will, in turn, provide guidance and direction to the ARC in regards to their year 2 curriculum development priorities. Results from the collection of Advisory Council's inputs and the Executive Board's subsequent direction to the ARC will be provided to Council members.

### **Space Workforce Transition Plan**

- Eric Nakamura, Director of Business Services for Brevard Job Link, briefed on the Space Workforce Transition—a Brevard Workforce Development Board initiative to address space workforce issues resulting from the pending Space Shuttle termination in 2010.
  - Workforce outlook report highlighted affected areas—a Shuttle-related supplier base of 1,046 businesses statewide, a workforce of approximately 9,235 employees at or near KSC, in addition to significant payroll and economic impacts within the state.
  - An Aerospace Career Development Council (ACDC) has been established to craft a unified economic development, employment and transition plan to present a single voice for funding and public policy requests. ARC is a member of the ACDC.
  - Funding request for communications; educational analysis, curriculum development and training; and workforce services have been forwarded to the 2008 Florida Legislature.
- ARC opportunity exists to assist in transitioning displaced space workers into emerging high skill industries (e.g., aviation, bio-medical, digital media, etc.) within the state.
  - Engaging network of Banner Center contacts and partner WFDBs can uncover employment opportunities for displaced space workers to transition to high skill/high wage industries that are in need of space workforce technical skills (e.g., Aviation, Homeland Security, Manufacturing)

### **Aviation and Space Industry Certifications**

- Tom Shiner, Workforce Florida director of Special Projects, provided a brief overview of the Florida Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Act created by the 2007 legislature. One of the key aims of this bill is to improve middle and high school academic performance by

providing rigorous and relevant career-themed curricula that articulates to post-secondary level coursework and leads to industry certifications.

- Towards this end, the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) developed a list of industry certifications—based on highest available national standards—to ensure student skill proficiencies and to address emerging labor market and industry trends.
  - The ARC provided a listing/description of industry certifications, including aviation and aerospace, to council members for their review prior to the meeting. The goals were (1) to validate the identified certifications and determine if there are other certifications providing similar value to those listed, and (2) to identify any emerging occupations within the industry sector and highlight certifications leading to them.
  - Council discussions, however, generated a list of certifications *below the national level certifications* presented by AWI, but deemed by industry members to be of value at the career academy level as “enabling” students with knowledges and skills training that would facilitate students matriculating more easily to postsecondary education and the state’s workforce.
- Action Item: Based on discussions, a subsequent industry certification list was created—merging the AWI certifications with the council-generated certifications—which was forwarded to members for their review/validation.
  - Once council members’ feedback collected, summary report will be forwarded to WFI

## **ARC Newsletter**

The inaugural issue of the *Florida Aerospace News*, an information and outreach instrument of the Aerospace Resource Center, will be available in early April. A draft copy was provided council members – we solicited feedback and suggestions for creating a newsletter of value for our associated regional workforce boards, economic development partners, businesses within the aviation and space industry, colleges and educational entities, and our state legislature.

## **Council Wrap Up**

The ARC remains focused the educational and training needs of occupations critical to the growth and success of the aviation and space industries—and will continue its efforts to engage workforce, training, and industry partners throughout the state.

Next Meeting: Follow-on meetings of the ARC Advisory Council are scheduled for July 24 and November 13, 2008.

The council meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

MITCH KOZAK, Program Manager  
Employ Florida Banner Center  
For Aviation and Space