

Minutes

Aerospace Resource Center (ARC) of Florida

The initial meeting of the ARC Advisory Council was convened on May 31, 2006 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m.

Council Members present: Dave Morrow, Traver Gruen-Kennedy, Richard DeMarco, George Hauer, Francis Ayers, Richard McAdams, Casey Barnes, Blake Hale, and Tom Cavanagh

Council Members absent: Adrian Laffitte [Blake Hale delegate], Samuel Durrance [Tom Cavanagh delegate], Glen Vera, Cesar Levy, Paul Bartlett, Keith Britton, and Harry Brandon

Others present: J. B. Renninger, Dr. Al Koller, Marshall Heard, Sam Fischer, Frank Margiotta, Edward Ellegood, Barbara Eyer, Dave Friction, Al Wassal, and Jayne Burgess (WFI—teleconference)

Welcome

Opening welcome was extended by Program Manager Mitch Kozak, after which Dr. Koller introduced Dr Witt from the Cape Commander's office who offered historical perspectives on our meeting site, Blockhouse 14. Mr. Kozak expressed appreciation for members attendance and participation—stressing how important the Committee's continuing involvement and input would be to the successful standup of the Aerospace Resource Center.

Introductions

Members were asked to introduce themselves and to state what they felt were the key workforce or training issues they would like solved. In general, state agencies expressed desire to satisfy state leadership goals for high-performing workforce programs focused on industry needs—while industry representatives focused on maintaining workforce labor and skill levels.

New Business

Program Manager reviewed the meeting agenda and proceeded with an overview of the Aerospace Resource Center—to include its origination when the state strategic plan for economic development, “The Roadmap for Florida’s Future,” was developed, to its planned mission, purpose, first-year deliverables, and intended goals and services.

The major portion of the meeting consisted of four presentations examining the workforce environment of the aviation and space industries in Florida. Two opening presentations by Traver Kennedy [DayJet] and Marshall Heard [FAAA] offered present and future perspectives on the aviation and space industries respectively—suggesting current as well as emerging workforce requirements. Follow-on presentations by collaborative partners in this contract, J.B.

Renninger [Aviation Center of Excellence, FCCJ] and Dr. Koller [SpaceTEC, BCC], illustrated current efforts by vocational training providers to address workforce needs of industry.

The final portion of the meeting addressed Advisory Council purpose and operations.

- Council members were briefed that the membership was drawn from government, academia, and industry; had a predominately business perspective, and should reflect representatives from various geographic areas across the state. The need for more varied representation [particularly from the Tampa, Miami, and Florida panhandle areas] was stressed. Council members were asked to assist efforts in this area by nominating additional aviation and space leaders to increase statewide representation on the Council.

- Roles and responsibilities of Advisory Council, Executive Committee, the ARC, and Aviation/Space Focus groups were discussed. Flow diagram was used to illustrate the relationship between these groups in the recommendation, oversight, and decision-making processes. No recommendations for change were offered.

- Year-one deliverables prescribed by the contract were reviewed. Members were briefed how deliverable timelines were driving ongoing work on the Needs Assessment and the initial curricula development. A copy of the assessment tool planned to survey aerospace companies about their workforce training needs was provided to members for their information. The Council would be asked for their insights and recommended actions stemming from assessment results at the next meeting. Regarding initial curricula development, development efforts in both the aviation and space communities can be documented as addressing local industry needs; development activities for the initial curricula submission are proceeding. It is anticipated that ARC assessment results will identify additional training needs, and the Council will make specific recommendations on subsequent curricula development efforts.

- Members were briefed that a set of operating procedures prescribing Council operations would be forwarded prior to the second meeting for consideration.

Various options were discussed regarding the time and location of the second Council meeting, which was tentatively planned for the third or fourth week in July. Location at this time is still to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.