



Title: Building Enrollment in Technical Programs

Date/Time: Wednesday, July 30, 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Location: Renaissance Austin Hotel

Description: The quality and sustainability of a viable photonics AAS program depends on a robust enrollment of focused, well-qualified students. To achieve this, colleges must proactively develop a “pipeline” of students who are graduating from nearby high schools. Three successful strategies that have been developed and tested at OP-TEC partner colleges are presented in this session.

- Dedicated Recruiters – Indian River Community College
- Summer Workshops for High School Teachers – Texas State Technical College
- Dual Credit Agreements – Indian Hills Community College

Presenters:



Greg Kepner is the Department Chair of Manufacturing and Industrial Technology programs at Indian Hills Community College (IHCC), an OP-TEC partner college in Ottumwa, IA. He is the OP-TEC Project Director at IHCC. Greg holds an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Electronics Technology and an Associate of Arts Degree from IHCC. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Buena Vista University. Greg is currently working towards a Master of Education Degree at Iowa State

University. Greg is the president-elect of the Iowa Industrial Technology Educators Association and a board member of the Iowa Association of Career and Technical Educators. He is a member of the Education Committee of the SE Iowa Manufacturer’s Consortium, Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Instrumentation Society of America, and SkillsUSA. Greg worked in the semiconductor manufacturing industry as a senior field service engineer for four years before beginning a teaching career in Robotics/Automation Technology program at IHCC. IHCC specializes in the application of photonics in the areas of manufacturing, research and development, and defense. With very strong support from area high schools, Greg has developed an early college dual credit program that includes photonics infused coursework in which a student can earn up to 40 college credits while still in high school.



Dr. Chrys Panayiotou is a professor and department head of Electronics Engineering Technology (EET) at Indian River Community College (IRCC), in Fort Pierce, Florida, and also holds the prestigious J. Douglas Steven teaching endowed chair. He is also a Co-Principal Investigator for OP-TEC and specializes in the application of photonics in the areas of homeland security and biomedical instrumentation. Chrys worked in the industrial automation and controls industry for three years and upon completion of his MSEE degree, he worked in the telecommunications industry for four years before joining academia. At IRCC, Chrys established a strong EET program with specializations in Robotics/Automation, Telecommunications, Biomedical, and Photonics.

With the very strong support from his industrial advisory board, Chrys has a vibrant program full to capacity with a waiting list for new students.



John O. Pedrotti is the Department Chair of the Laser Electro-Optics and Nanotechnology Department at Texas State Technical College (TSTC) Waco. He also works with OP-TEC as a Project Director for TSTC and provides expertise in nanotechnology and semiconductor manufacturing. John holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Southwest Texas State University and an Associate Degree in Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology from TSTC. John has experience in biomedical testing and R&D and prior to starting his teaching career at TSTC, worked as a field engineer for LaserVision Incorporated. Since joining TSTC in 2002, John has been instrumental in the development and continued success of TSTC's Laser Electro-Optics and Nanotechnology programs.