



**BUILDING AND ENERGY SYSTEMS PROFESSIONAL (BESP)  
REGIONAL FACULTY AND INDUSTRY PARTNER MEETING  
FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023, 08:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.  
APPLIED SCIENCES – Room PS-019**

**Welcome Breakfast and Networking 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.**

Christopher Arbuckle, COD, HVAC  
Ruben Betancourt, COD, HVAC  
Bert Bitanga, COD, Architecture, Construction  
George Brown, COD, CTE Dept Chair, HVAC/R  
Jennifer Brown, COD/BESP Consortia  
Ramiro Galicia, COD, Energy, HVAC  
Ana Hernandez, COD, Work Experience

Drew Allenbeck, Hot Purple Energy  
Max Castro, Augustine Casino  
Alfonso Gutierrez, Mc Callum Theatre  
James Hilding, Renova Solar  
Von Lawson, Mt. San Jacinto College  
Kfir Mendelovitz, Riverside City College  
Pierre Ortanez, Riverside City College  
Angel Rodriguez, Gentlemens Mechanical  
Carlos Sanchez, Palm Springs Welding  
Kate Stewart, Palm Springs Welding  
Adam Wright, Palm Springs Welding

**1. Greeting and Introductions – Jennifer Brown**

- a. George Brown, HVAC, Refrigeration
- b. Ramiro Galicia, Energy, HVAC
- c. Bert Bitanga, Architecture, Construction Management
- d. Ana Hernandez, Work Experience
  - i. Introduction and discussion of COD’s Work Experience program
  - ii. Brief discussion of “Handshake” – an employer resource that allows them to recruit and advertise job openings online.
  - iii. Employers are encouraged to connect with Ana to begin the application process to start a “Handshake” account.



## 2. **BESP AS Degree Program Overview**

Jennifer Brown, BESP Regional Coordinator

- a. Description of industry needs and goals of the BESP AS Degree program.
- b. Discussion of the BESP cohort – adoption of BESP certificates at sister colleges within the region
  - i. Introduction of Kfir Mendelovitz and Pierre Ortanez from Riverside City College – they have adopted the HVAC curriculum and are partners of the BESP cohort.
  - ii. Introduction of Dr. Von Lawson from Mt. San Jacinto College – they are in the process of adopting the Applied Construction Technology curriculum and are new partners of the BESP cohort.

George Brown, HVAC, Refrigeration

- c. Discussion and description of program flexibility -Explanation of the Fast-Track schedule.
  - i. Benefits the student by moving from a typical 16-week course schedule to an 8-week schedule.
  - ii. Also benefits the students in offering 12 different entry points, Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter, AM, or PM
  - iii. Students can complete the program in 9 months.

Jennifer Brown

- d. Discussion about the multiple career opportunities through the offering of stackable certificates
  - i. Coursework often overlaps from one industry certificate to another.
  - ii. Students can take one or two additional courses to add to their certificates, expanding their skills and marketability.



### 3. Top 3 “must have” skills discussion – Jennifer Brown

- a. Introduction to the New World of Work Skills coursework – soft skills
  - i. COD is considering upgrades to the BESP core by replacing AIS 012 Professional Office Procedures (3 units) with up to four New Employability Skills (EMP 010-019) courses (0.5 units each).
- b. Attendees are encouraged to briefly review the EMP course descriptions and rank courses according to their perceived priority.
  - i. COD BESP lead faculty will review the rankings and take them under advisement.
- c. Upon review and discussion Drew Allenbeck (Hot Purple Energy), James Hilding (Renova Solar), and Kate Stewart (Palm Springs Welding) agree that Adaptability (EMP 010), Communication (EMP 013), and Analysis and Solution Mindset (EMP 016) are highly valued skills.
  - i. Drew Allenbeck stated that all the courses listed had great value for employers – other attendees agreed.
  - ii. George Brown stated that COD could consider a requiring a certain number of EMP courses in the core, but that the coursework could be chosen by the student.
    1. In addition, if employers note a student intern is lacking certain soft skills, employers could request that the student take a particular EMP course to assist them.
  - iii. Jennifer Brown also encouraged employers to consider sending their existing employees who need help to take these courses as a non-credit (EMP 310A-319B)



- d. During a 5-minute coffee break, EMP course descriptions with circled preferences were collected from the attendees.
  - i. Notes from anonymous employers on collected sheets:
    - 1. “These are all important skills. I think it would be up to the individual to be aware of what they need to work on.”
    - 2. Highlighted the following phrases:
      - a. Adaptability – handle a normal amount of stress
      - b. Self-awareness – responsibility for your actions
      - c. Collaboration – finding positive ways to resolve conflict
      - d. Resilience – being able to bounce back when things go wrong
  - ii. The following tally indicates the most popular soft skills courses as chosen by attendees. The higher the number, the more popular the subject matter.

Employer Soft Skills Course Preferences				
EMP 010	EMP 011	EMP 012	EMP 013	EMP 014
Adaptability	Self-Awareness	Digital Fluency	Communication	Collaboration
4	3	2	3	3
EMP 015	EMP 016	EMP 017	EMP 018	EMP 019
Empathy	Analysis and Solution Mindset	Resilience	Entrepreneurial Mindset	Social Diversity Awareness
0	3	2	1	1



#### 4. Curriculum review

Ramiro Galicia, Energy, HVAC

##### a. New and upcoming

- i. Building Automation – Ramiro Galicia presents a brief PowerPoint introducing his discoveries and work in Building Automation during his year-long sabbatical. He has been doing professional development and industry research in Building Automation and has been working on the development of curriculum for a Building Automation certificate to be added to the BESP program.

1. The new COD offering of Building Automation certificate is a fast-track 24-week completion.

- a. Includes ACR 090 Building Automation Fundamentals, ACR 091 Advanced Building Control Networks, and ACR 092 Advanced Building Automation Networks and Programming.

- b. New coursework to be offered in May for Fall 2023 registration.

- ii. Welding on Wheels has been a three-year journey of conception and course development between Ramiro Galicia and George Brown.

1. Trailers with onboard training equipment are designed to handle 15 students at a time.

- a. They are to be mobilized from location to location to different high schools to accommodate high school and adult students throughout the Coachella Valley

2. Trailers are in the process of being fitted and assembled. They will be completed in time for Fall 2023 courses.

- a. COD is currently actively seeking qualified instructors for this coursework.



3. The new Welding certificate is currently a standalone certificate program but will soon be added to the BESP AS degree program as a specialty.
  4. James Hilding (Renova) and Drew Allenbeck (Hot Purple Energy) both mention that exothermic welding is a skill needed in the solar industry, but it is not specified in the welding certificate.
    - a. After further conversation with Ramiro Galicia, it was concluded that it would be more suitable to add this skill training to the solar certificate program as the skill is a minor task already learned through one of the courses in the welding certificate program, but not addressed in the solar certificate program.
- iii. Program needs – George Brown, Ramiro Galicia, and Bert Bitanga all mention that the largest need is in finding qualified faculty.
1. If anyone in the industries knows of someone who could be suitable as an adjunct faculty member, COD is very open to their application.
- iv. Industry feedback
1. Max Castro (Augustine Casino) mentioned the need to see more COD student applicants at all hiring positions at Augustine Casino. They need facilities maintenance personnel, but also all other hospitality-related positions.
  2. Jennifer Brown highly encouraged that any industry leaders looking to take on student interns should contact Ana Hernandez in Work Experience for collaboration.
  3. Kfir Mendelovitz (Riverside City College) also mentioned the importance of allowing students to complete their education plans if the employer chooses to hire the student.



- a. He affirmed that their HVAC program has a standing agreement with employers that they must not prevent or discourage students from completing their certificate or degree.
- b. If an employer breaks that promise, they will not be invited back to visit student classrooms, participate in job fairs, or participate in work experience programs.

#### **5. Adjournment at 10:05 a.m. and tour of the facilities**

Jennifer Brown

- a. Thank you for your input – we'll be contacting you soon for more collaboration and to keep you posted on upcoming events.
- b. Attendees were led by Bert Bitanga first for a tour of the new Tiny Home designed and constructed by architecture and construction management students.
- c. Attendees were then led by Chris Arbuckle and Ruben Betancourt for a tour of the HVAC lab and equipment yard.