

Polytechnic Summit 2012 – A major success for Wentworth and our college

Hafford, Patrick

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To: Hafford, Patrick

I want to begin by thanking the professors from our college who attended and participated in the Polytechnic Summit last week. For those who did not see one of the many emails that went out regarding this conference, the 2012 Polytechnic Summit took place last week at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, GA. Wentworth was well represented with both student and faculty presenters. I believe the College of Arts and Sciences had the largest number of faculty participating from Wentworth. Our professors gave talks on the following topics (in alphabetical order):

- Bridging the Research Gap in Polytech and STEM Focused Institutions (James O'Brien, Sciences)
- Creating a More Robust Calculus Experience While Improving Retention (Anita Penta and Amanda Hattaway, Applied Mathematics)
- Engaging Engineering Students in Science: A Student-Constructed Biodiesel Processor (Greg Sirokman, Sciences)
- Engaging Undergraduate Students in a Gen Ed Course through Project-Based Learning (Pat Hafford, HSS (I spoke about teaching Tech Comm))
- Improving Student Social Business Skill Sets through Development of E-Portfolio Net Worth (Cindy Stevens, Management & Facilities)
- Student Learning From Mistakes: Experiencing Project Management and Business Strategy Failures Using Simulations (John Cooper, Management & Facilities)

I was able to hear all but one of our presentations and the professors all did an excellent job. The talks addressed timely topics and were interesting and well-received. As you can see these are primarily focused on some aspect of pedagogy, something that is entirely appropriate for faculty from the primarily teaching college. Wentworth will be hosting this event for 2013 and 2014. This provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate scholarship during next year.

The other thing I believe people who participated found valuable was the chance to get to know faculty from other schools who are teaching students who look a lot like our students. People were able to share ideas, frustrations and victories with each other. It was a chance to learn what others are doing and make some friends in your field.

If you are interested in more information I recommend you ask any of the people listed above what they thought about the conference and about the preparation they put into applying and then attending.