

PUGET SOUND CONSORTIUM FOR MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE

2003-2004 Evaluation Report – Executive Summary

March 2004

The Puget Sound Consortium for Manufacturing Excellence (PSCME) is a dynamic education-industry partnership working towards building the connection between manufacturing technology education, student career goals, and private sector demand. In its third and final year, the PSCME is working to solidify its legacy in manufacturing technology education by ensuring the sustainability of the programs and processes developed during the funding period.

The PSCME has worked with industry partners, secondary schools and post-secondary institutions to attain its goals for curriculum and professional development. As well, the PSCME has partnered with the Manufacturing Technology Advisory Group (MTAG) in the revision and implementation of core curriculum modules. The PSCME designed and is pilot testing an assessment rubric for student learning for each module. This past year, the PSCME has hosted/co-hosted a High School Students' Summer Workshop and an Educator Intern Workshop. Recently, PSCME instituted the funding of mini-grants to provide community and technical colleges the opportunity to adopt the newly revised PSCME/MTAG modules to enhance manufacturing education programs.

The PSCME has worked with the Washington State Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA) program and educational institutions to attain its goals for articulation. The PSCME, in conjunction with the MESA program, sponsored a field trip for middle school students of diverse ethnic backgrounds to Edmonds Community College and Dillon Works, a small manufacturing company. The Director of Highline Community College's SCORE program; a one-day conference for students of color to explore post-secondary educational opportunities, was interviewed to elicit recommendations for planning similar programs. In an effort to gather information that can guide PSCME planning, the Washington State MESA Director, Patricia MacGowan, was interviewed concerning suggestions for future collaboration.

The PSCME has a strong program management team that actively disseminates information. At the fourth annual conference on student recruitment and retention strategies for engineering technology, hosted by the New Jersey Center for Advanced Technological Education (NJATE), PSCME program evaluators presented a summary of PSCME Focus Group outcomes. PSCME leadership also participated in the development of another National Science Foundation proposal submitted by Shoreline Community College. At the end of the second year, PSCME once again hosted its National Visiting Committee. Presentations of yearly activities preceded discussions and guidance for the final year of the program.

Building on its strengths and successes, the PSCME has a dynamic plan for activities this year. PSCME leadership is actively pursuing the implementation and integration of PSCME/MTAG modules in area schools. Professional development for teachers and school counselors will be ongoing during the year, as will articulation activities to ensure sustainability of program accomplishments. Partner colleges and institutions that were granted funding under the PSCME mini-proposals will report this spring on their efforts, with final reporting in June.

The final year's challenge is to provide for sustainability of projects and to actively pursue dissemination activities. It is recommended that PSCME core staff thoroughly review participants' comments from evaluation activities. Carefully considering the results of surveys and interviews will allow staff to make data-based decisions in this final year.