

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **BP Exploration and Production Presents Donation Check to Center for the Advancement of Process Technology (CAPT)**

*BP teams up with CAPT at College of the Mainland to provide student scholarships and faculty training development*

**September 29, 2005** – As the need for oil and natural gas increases, so too does the need for skilled process technicians to work in the petrochemical and refining industries. A high number of retirements projected over the next seven to ten years in several process industry sectors adds to this escalating worker shortage.

To meet the demand for skilled workers, BP Exploration and Production has partnered with the Center for the Advancement of Process Technology (CAPT) to provide scholarships to students who are currently enrolled or are planning to enroll in the Process Technology (or Instrumentation Technology) two-year degree program. Preference will be given to those who intend to take the Oil and Gas Production related coursework.

“This is a great career opportunity for students seeking well paying, high-technology careers,” said Johnny Payne, Operations Technical Training Manager for BP. “In the next three to five years we estimate that the production in both oil and gas will increase dramatically. Our facilities will need to be staffed with qualified people who have process and instrumentation skills and competencies.”

Payne demonstrated that support on behalf of BP with a generous donation check to CAPT. In addition to supporting student scholarships, BP provided funding for an Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Faculty Summer Institute in Alaska this summer, as well as providing several offshore internships for faculty members.

“We must also ensure that instructors have the latest knowledge and real world experience,” Payne stated. Faculty who attended the institute or participated in one of the internships gained or enhanced their knowledge of the oil and gas exploration and production industry. They then took this information back to their classrooms and programs.

BP awards scholarships each spring for the upcoming school year. All scholarships are awarded based on student performance. For information about the BP scholarship program, contact CAPT at (409) 938-1211 x100 or visit the website at [www.capttech.org](http://www.capttech.org).

**PHOTO CAPTION:** President “Butch” Hayes (l), College of the Mainland; John Payne, BP Exploration and Production; Joanna Kile, CAPT Director; and Merv Treigle, CAPT Assistant Director, hold a \$50,000 donation check from BP.

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**Note to editors:**

The Center for the Advancement of Process Technology (CAPT) is a national collaboration between education and industry in six process technology alliances throughout the United States. Process industries served include the chemical, refining, oil and gas production and pharmaceutical manufacturing sectors. Since its inception, the Center partnership has grown by 40%, from 30 to 42 national education partners in 18 states and the Virgin Islands.

With these partners, CAPT fosters the development and enhancement of quality two-year Process Technology degree programs based on industry-established standards. This is accomplished by developing curricula and instructional materials, providing professional development opportunities, designing and promoting career pathways, and establishing and fostering partnerships to advance PTEC education.

The value of hiring degreed graduates is an important criterion for measuring the success of a PTEC program. According to the 2002 CAPT survey, companies confirmed a growing preference to hire process technology graduates, with 63% of the companies requiring an Associate Degree in Process Technology or significant process experience.

Companies also realize several benefits by hiring employees with Process Technology degrees. First, a savings of \$16,000 per person in reduced overtime expenses and basic training time was realized by hiring only those with the degree or seven years of operating experience. Second, degreed employees demonstrated a 37% better safety record. Finally, for the 1,324 students that have graduated from CAPT's partner colleges with an Associate Degree in Process Technology in the past two years, a 97% placement rate has been achieved.

CAPT serves as the administrator of the scholarship program. Students at CAPT partner colleges are eligible for the scholarships each year. Further information about CAPT can be found at [www.capttech.org](http://www.capttech.org).

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