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BP Exploration and Production To Award Internships to Area Students and Graduates

BP Exploration and Production will award internships to students and graduates from the College of the Mainland. To qualify for these paid internships, students must be enrolled in or have graduated from a two-year Process Technology or Instrumentation degree program. The deadline for receiving the required documentation for a summer internship is March 15. Full instructions and application forms can be found at www.capttech.org.

The BP Student Internship Program provides hands-on, career-specific experience at an onshore or offshore oil and gas facility. Internships are conducted between May and August, and last from 10 to 12 weeks, depending on the location. Each intern is teamed with an operations, maintenance, or instrumentation technician at the beginning of the internship.

Interns shadow the technicians while they make rounds, take readings, monitor normal operation conditions and practice emergency preparedness. In addition to contributing directly to operations projects and activities, interns gain recognition for their accomplishments and teamwork skills.

According to John Payne, a resource coordinator with BP, "This promises to be a great career opportunity for people seeking high-technology jobs. Identifying talented persons early will help us staff our facilities both offshore and onshore."

Because of an aging workforce, the process industries are suffering from a significant shortage of process and instrumentation technicians. Significant employment opportunities are expected in the future, and at BP Exploration and Production, the Gulf of Mexico is a major growth area.

The Center for the Advancement of Process Technology (CAPT), at College of the Mainland, serves as the administrator of the internship program. "These internships allow the best students in Process Technology programs to participate in the actual operations and maintenance activities of their chosen career," said CAPT Director, Joanna Kile. CAPT is a national center for process technology education funded by the National Science Foundation.