

“Florida Polytechnic: News from the front lines of the startup of a STEM University”

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Abstract:

Florida Polytechnic University, the 12th institution in Florida’s State University System, opened its doors in Fall, 2014 as the only public university in the SUS dedicated to education in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Florida Poly’s mission is to prepare 21st century learners in advanced STEM fields, and to help them become innovative problem-solvers and high-tech professionals through interdisciplinary teaching, leading-edge research and collaborative local, regional and global partnerships. While commendable, this mission must also cope with, and ultimately overcome, a host of real-life issues that are unique to a start-up institution. This talk will highlight a variety of opportunities that demonstrate the excitement of participating in the birth of a new STEM university, while at the same time pointing out some of the various problems (ranging from mildly irritating to mission critical) that accompany the academic start-up process.

Brief Bio:

Dr. Richard Matyi has had a successful career in academia, industry, and the U.S. government. He has over 35 years’ direct experience in the growth, characterization and utilization of the major materials classes – metals, ceramics, semiconductors and polymers – with hands-on experience in the application of a variety of characterization tools, particularly X-ray diffraction and scattering methods. His record of scholarly work includes over 180 scientific publications, over 120 technical presentations, six books or book chapters, three U.S. patents issued, two Standard Reference Materials created and one ISO standard published. He holds a Ph.D. in materials science and engineering from Northwestern University; his master’s degree is in materials science and engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and his bachelor’s degree in materials science and engineering is also from Northwestern. His professional affiliations include the American Crystallographic Association, the American Society of Engineering Education, the Materials Research Society, and the National Academy of Inventors.