

Curriculum Review 2022

Tidewater Community College served as host for the 2022 ABFSE curriculum review session June 2-4, 2022.

Twenty educators and practitioners gathered in Virginia Beach, VA for the annual ABFSE curriculum review sponsored by the Hilgenfeld Family Foundation for Mortuary Education. Following two years of virtual review, ABFSE was pleased to resume meeting in person. Participants came from all parts of the US – from Washington, California, Utah and Texas to Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Michigan, Massachusetts, the Middle Atlantic states and the Carolinas.

With the Hilgenfeld Foundation support, ABFSE has been able to meet annually to review the teaching curriculum used by accredited programs. Typically, three or four subject areas are reviewed each year. In 2022, the review included Funeral Service Merchandising, Ethics and Business Law. The annual review process ensures that the ABFSE curriculum is current and pertinent to funeral service practice. The ABFSE curriculum is also used in preparation of items for the National Board Exam.

With the Atlantic Ocean and Virginia Beach as the backdrop, Tidewater CC provided the setting for the work sessions. The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards and Altmeyer Funeral Home also provided support for the sessions.

In addition to Tidewater CC faculty, J. Frank Walton and Kimberly Jones, participants included Cody Lopasky and Lee Gohmann, Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service, Ebone Dukes, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Jennie Frederickson, Lake Washington Institute of Technology, David Hess, Salt Lake Community College, Shawna Rodabaugh, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Larry Cleveland, Hudson Valley Community College, Dan Shea, Cape Cod Community College, Cody Walker, Dallas Institute of Funeral Service, Mark Evely, Wayne State University, Jolena Grande, Cypress College, Jose Moreno and Mary Mena, San Antonio College, Nicholas Ricci, Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science.

Practitioners included Chris Robinson from NFDA, Elois Saucer from NFDMA and John Rice and Kortez Boyd from ICFSEB.

Recommendations from the curriculum session are reviewed by all ABFSE programs and a final version of the curriculum outlines will be presented for approval in April 2023.