NCSLI Rio Grande Section met in McAllen, Texas at South Texas College on December 5, 2012. The Technology campus had the honor of hosting this event and the day’s agenda was filled with a great schedule and presenters. We are grateful for our meeting sponsors both DynaCal, and National Instruments. Breakfast, refreshments, snacks and lunch were great! Our meeting started with a welcome from Esmeralda Adame, NCSLI-RGV Section Coordinator followed by Mr. Mario Reyna, Dean of Business and Technology at South Texas College. Both greeted the crowd and thanked everyone for their attendance and mentioned that our College’s doors were always open for future events.

“Moore’s Law and Modular Instrument Technology” was our first presentation topic and was presented by Dimaries Nieves, Senior Metrology Engineer at National Instruments. Her presentation was followed by a break and exhibit viewing in which we had companies such as DynaCal, CL Scales and Systems, Etalons, NAMREE, the University of Texas Pan American amongst others.

Phil Smith, Director of Public Affairs at American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), was our second presenter. “Calibration Buyer Beware” was his topic which brought forth a lot of questions amongst the audience. NCSLI board and conference update was given by Paul Packebush, Section Manager at National Instruments. He also talked about NCSLI upcoming events and other activities.

Before our lunch break we took some time for our group picture. We had an attendance of about 85 ranging from presenters, local community members, local manufacturing company managers and students. Everyone was excited, eager and enthusiastic about our event and looking forward for future section meetings.

Christopher L. Grachanen, Hewlett-Packard was our third guest speaker and his topic was “Trust but Verify-Beyond the Accreditation Logo.” His presentation was followed by an open discussion and the floor was opened for any questions and or comments from the crowd.

Door prizes were given throughout our event; these were sponsored by TEGAM, South Texas College, CL Scales and Systems, and A2LA. Both Paul and Esmeralda gave closing remarks and talked about a possible spring meeting. A tour of the Precision Manufacturing Technology, PMT Department at the College followed for those interested. Mr. Morales, our department Program Chair, gave the tour of our machining lab, quality control and CNC labs. He explained the PMT program and gave insight on our local manufacturing employers and the need for more skilled machinists.

Thank you to everyone that made this event possible. Special thanks to our presenters and there great presentations, Felipe Narcio, DynaCal, Paul Packebush, National Instruments and NCSLI for all their help in planning and sponsoring the event.

eadame@southtexascollege.edu