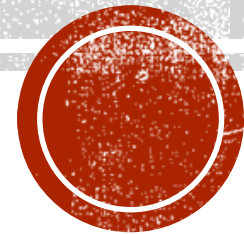# CLEAR MESSAGES COMPLEX TOPICS: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Amely Cross – Asnuntuck Community College

Nancy Ruther – Gazelle International
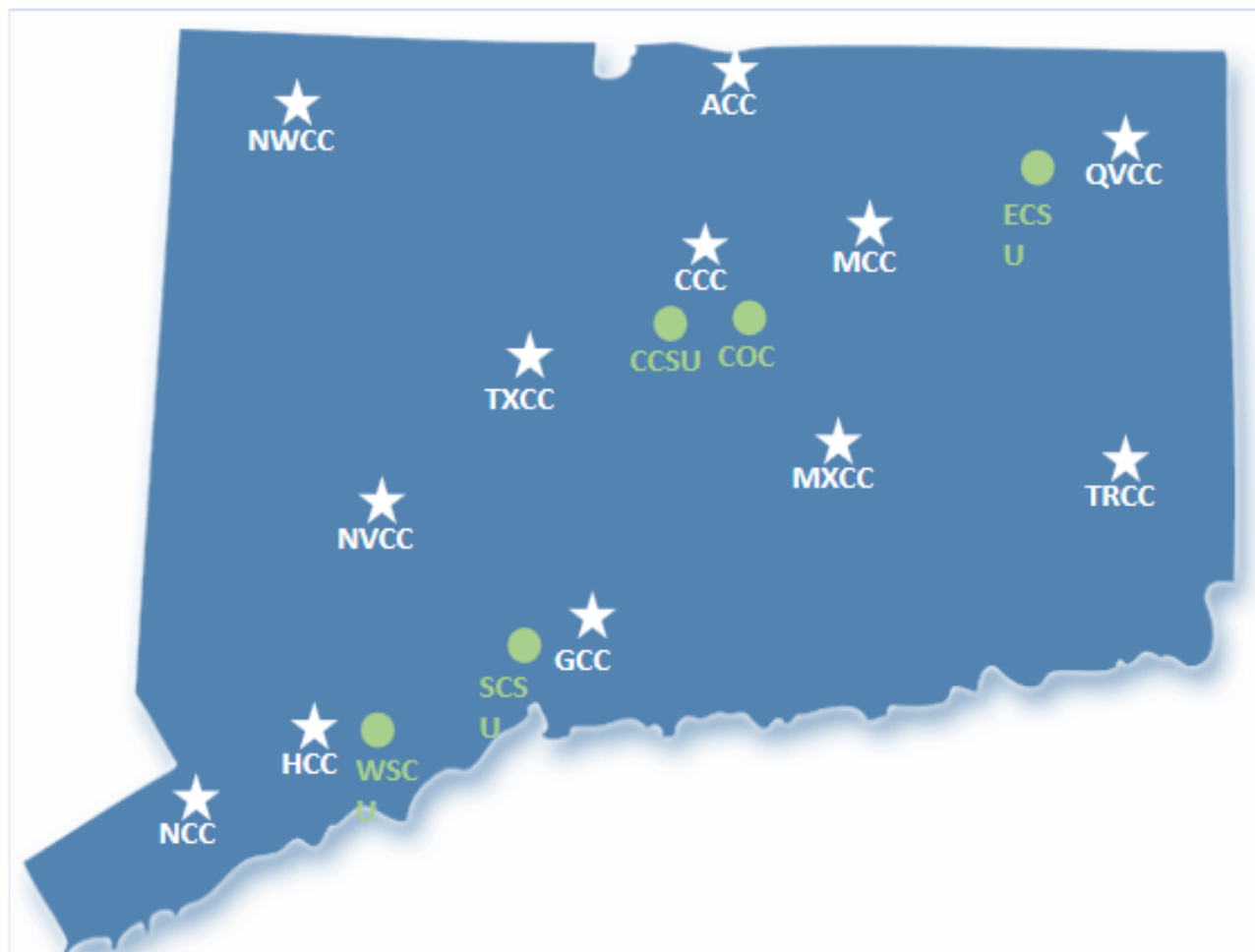
Karen Wosczyna-Birch – College of Technology/ Tunxis Community College

Hello
my name is

CT State Colleges & Universities

Legend

Community Colleges (12)

ACC	Asnuntuck CC
CCC	Capital CC
GCC	Gateway CC
HCC	Housatonic CC
MCC	Manchester CC
MXCC	Middlesex CC
NCC	Norwalk CC
NVCC	Naugatuck Valley CC
NWCC	Northwestern CT CC
TRCC	Three Rivers CC
TXCC	Tunxis CC
QVCC	Quinebaug Valley CC

Universities (5)

CCSU	Central Connecticut University
SCSU	Southern CT State University
ECSU	Eastern CT State University
WCSU	Western CT State University
COSC	Charter Oak State College (Online)

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH TODAY?

- Explore the way that we can use "virtual exchange" to bring together different disciplines across countries.

- Fulfill the outcomes of the individual courses with a common team project for students between partners in France and USA to reach subject + international outcomes.

- Consider how you could use this approach to reach more students on your campus with high quality international education and promote broader internationalization goals.

CT COLLABORATIVE LEARNING FOR INTERNATIONAL CAPABILITIES AND KNOWLEDGE (CLICK)

- Focus: international outcomes starting in the classroom (Click + travel)
- CT Community College International Education Initiative
  - CLICKs-courses – CT CC faculty partner with French faculty using technology to create and implement modules that French and American students complete together
  - Design workshops for participating faculty on how to create and implement modules
  - Travel experience: Explorers program (faculty and students)
- Funding from French Embassy in US, CT-CC system, CC Foundations
  - FR Partnerships for Innovation and Collaboration in Study Abroad (PICSA) grants
  - 2017-18 – Asnuntuck, Middlesex CC's Click'ing (Tunxis CC, admin home)
  - 2018-19 – Northwest, Norwalk, Asnuntuck, Middlesex CC's Click'ing (College of Technology, admin home) with new French partners

THE BASICS OF OUR CLICK MODULE

Collegiate partners	IUT-Lannion, France, University of Rennes 1 Asnuntuck Community College, USA, Connecticut
Courses, subjects	• France - English as 2nd Language, 4th term (Network Management) • USA - English (English 101), Health Sciences (Bio/Chem capstone)
Project summary	• Teams used technology to produce a clear message, long blog post, for friendly, skeptical and professional audience • Teams selected appropriate sources in health and technology
Technology & Resources	• Padlet, Google Docs, Skype, WhatsApp • "France 24" bilingual platform (FR-ENG) focused on French science, tech innovation news and breakthroughs
Highlights	• 4 teachers worked as a team to design and teach the module with 60+ students between FR and CT • French teachers of English observed "live" teamwork to meet their high standards for practical use of the language

NOW LET'S TRY IT

ONE LEARNING OBJECTIVE

BRING A CLICK PROJECT INTO FOCUS

GROUP ACTIVITY - CREATE ONE COMMON LEARNING OBJECTIVE IN TWO CLASSES SUCH AS:

BUSINESS AND ENGINEERING

ENGLISH AND BIO-SCIENCES

SOCIOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY

IDENTIFY KEY CHALLENGES TO MAKE THIS WORK ON YOUR CAMPUS

Discuss your campus culture and faculty interests/motivations

What might work at your college?

What are some obstacles that you might face?

What are the advantages that might make it work -- generate support, get collaborators?

WHAT DO YOU NEED…

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Creative, flexible faculty who can see many paths to reaching good learning outcomes (same outcomes, different way to get there).

Faculty who see the value for students.

Welcoming, willing to help…. Sense of real learning community with staff, deans, technical support.

Sense of faculty ownership and innovation in classes.

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE?

- Long term goal, system-wide…. On-ramp to a systematic international strategy.

- Build a curricular anchor to institutionalize the project
  - Certificate w regular "international content" courses including virtual exchange

- Build the resource base
  - Funding NSF, ERASMUS, etc.
  - Recruit teachers, partners

- BUILD, SUSTAIN TRUE EXCHANGE - RELATIONSHIPS.

"It is very hard to build relationships but very easy to destroy them" Karen Birch

THE **THREE** REASONS TO DO IT

STUDENTS
STUDENTS
STUDENTS

Opens the window of global learning ... leads to credentials

Knowing your student population... check list vs team work approach

Creating 21st century skills

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR STUDENTS?

CONTACT US

Prof. Amely Cross, PhD
Asnuntuck CC
across@acc.edu

Prof. Karen Birch, PhD
Tunxis CC, College of
Technology
kWosczyna-
Birch@commnet.edu

Nancy Ruther, EdD
Gazelle International
nancyruther@gazelle-
international.org