MINUTES

Welcome Remarks - Dr. Karen Wosczyna- Birch, Executive Director, College of Technology-National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (COT-NCNGM)

Attendee Introductions

Digital Generalist Pathway – Candace Williams, Director of Policy Research & Strategic Initiatives, New England Board of Higher Education

We are making good progress on finishing the design of the digital generalist microcredential, which will be composed of 4 badges and much of the knowledge, skills, and ability areas that are within the digital generalists are covered by existing courses. Crystal, and Andre will be developing a new data ethics insecurity course to fill that batch within the digital general, microcredential. Our partners, the Business-Higher Education Forum has, been meeting with employer partners on a monthly basis and including our faculty partners and us in those conversations as well to keep them engaged up to date on the progress of the microcredential development and they have signaled to us that they are very much on board with the design thus far. We are hoping that we may have a proposal for to consider in December or January to finalize the paperwork for the micro credential. Crystal and Andre were thanked for working on the last details of finalizing this.

Karen Wosczyna-Birch noted that the system office has developed a task force to look at how micro credentials will be implemented on the non-credit and the credit sides. The general consensus is that a micro credential is actually driven by industry, which is exactly what we did with the Stanley Black and Decker. We are trying to look at what skillsets industry has identified as what they would like to see a potential employee exhibit or have the competencies in and then that is used to create this credential. The task force was charged by Provost Jane Gates with the idea of trying to define the micro credential and how these fits in the credit side and then also the connection with non-credit. The task force should have a report by the end of the year.

Lesley Mara noted that for programs with existing industry credentials, such as healthcare, micro credentials can be used as supplemental training.

Richard Gnall of Manchester Community College asked if there are any pathways defined to know which courses are in which pathway and is there any paperwork posted as to what these actually are at this point? Karen Wosczyna-Birch responded that they are not in place yet. Also, the micro credentials need to be designed as part of the overall stackable credential model.

Discussion followed regarding the process for approving new and modified programs. Currently, the process is to bring it to the College of Technology Curriculum Committee and Site Coordinators Council for approval, then move on to campus curriculum committees and the Board of Regents approval process. There will probably be changes to this process after the consolidation, but that process is still being determined.

GE CoCREATE Presentation – Eric Muzzillo, Director Platform, GE Appliances

Eric Muzzillo also introduced Ron Fernandez, Director of Engineering for Stamford CoCREATE. Ron noted that he has been with GE for 12 years.

Karen Wosczyna-Birch acknowledged that Dr. Tom Coley, Shoreline Regional President, and Dr. Jim Lombella, North-West Regional President, where in the meeting and have been involved in this initiative since it's kickoff. Tom Coley thanked the faculty who have been working to recruit student for the GE internships.

Eric Muzzillo described the Stamford CoCREATE space as so is really 3 spaces in in 1. The very front of the building is an experience space set up like a kitchen to see all of the GE Appliance brands and appliances. Interactive cooking classes will be held here for the community. Designers will also be able to come in and look at colors and finishes. The second space is a makerspace that will be staffed with people to help the community use the equipment. There will be materials for sale at cost or you can use your own. The final space is the manufacturing space, which at first will be dedicated to a wall-mounted pizza oven. The oven will be manufactured and shipped from this building. Periodically we will have hackathons or design competitions where we invite makers from the community. The space will have close to $750K to $1M worth of equipment and will be open and free for the public to use. Student interns will work there part time so they can still be full-time students. Schedules will be flexible. They will be working on projects, using equipment, and keeping track of inventory. They will also be learning about supply chain. About 18 students will be needed to start and would like to have them selected before winter break. Ren Sharma of Naugatuck Valley Community College asked if students could continue past one semester. Eric Muzzillo responded that they can continue past one semester. Students will be taught everything they need to know and will be provided with training materials. They will be paid approximately $20 per hour. This is open to all community college students, but Gateway, Housatonic, and Norwalk were targeted now due to location. Opportunities will also open for university and high school students. Tours can be organized once the building is up and running.

Remarks from Dr. James Lombella, Regional President, North-West Region, Connecticut Community Colleges
Thank you everyone for joining us this morning, and it was very exciting to have Eric and come and give this presentation and just really talks to a lot of the innovation going on at our at our community colleges and through our College of Technology. President Terrence Cheng is very much aware of the College of Technology and all the things that are going on across the, the colleges, the universities, and the partnerships. We wanted to just take a moment to really stop and send a thank you out. We really would like to thank the College of Technology for all their hard work, especially submitting all of the program and course proposals for the Connecticut State Community College. We're well aware that 15 technology study options and 88 individual course sheets were submitted in addition to the core curriculum and certificate programs. Thank you to Dr. Karen Wosczyna-Birch, Mary Bidwell, Sharon Gusky, Wendy Robicheau, the COT curriculum committee and the advanced manufacturing technology center directors for all their work on the required documentation to get this curriculum through the process. These programs cannot continue to be offered at our Connecticut State Community College without your dedication. So really this is just a moment to stop and say thank you for all the work. Thank you to those also working on the Amazon initiative, the Google initiative, and Intel initiative so far, especially Crystal Wiggins and Lalit Jagtiani. They're working on the Google curriculum and all those who participated in Intel, the API for workforce program, deep dive, and are now taking the lead on implementation. These programs are a mix of Friday and non-credit programs, providing those multiple entry and exit points, that make such a successful stackable credential model. And President Cheng is well aware of this. He's impressed with this. We need to leverage this, we need to build upon this model as we become Connecticut State. Finally, I want to thank you to those who have worked on the digital generalists pathway with our partners at the New England Board of Higher Education, the Business-Higher Education Forum and industry partnerships such as the Stanley Black and Decker, especially Andre Freeman and Crystal Wiggins, and those who completed course surveys for the program, including Andre Freeman and Elizabeth Allen. These programs will allow us to educate the future workforce and those looking to change careers as well as workforce with the latest skills and provide them with additional tools to help them enter the workforce. Credentials from these programs will allow our students to enter careers in a variety of industries in Connecticut, contributing to the States economic growth. Everyone from President Cheng to Kelly Vallieres, our Workforce Officer with the Office of Workforce Strategies, is well aware of all the work going on with the College of Technology and just to take a moment to pause and to say thank you to all of our faculty and our staff and Wendy Robicheau behind the College of Technology with all her hard work as well. We acknowledge that goes into this, and this is all taking place with Google, Intel, and Amazon in the middle of a global pandemic. So we've had challenges in the last year and a half to two years. changing our institutions from, from on ground to online to virtual institutions. We've encountered such challenges as last year I commend and respect each and every one of you on this call each and every member of our College of Technology.

Regional President Thomas Coley also thanked the Regional Workforce Development Officers for their work and connecting the credit and non-credit credentials.

MET2 Program – John Birch, Executive Director, MET2 & Eric Flynn, Technology Lead, MET2
John Birch noted the program has been running for sixteen years with most participants from community colleges and some from universities. It is a smaller program now, but in the past, there have been up to 65 students in a cohort. It starts with the Winter intersession, which is a 2-week intense program. Most of our students that go through the programs have job offers before they even graduate. Students learn professional and technical skills during the program. Participants do get a stipend. The students learn a lot about themselves. They do a lot of reflecting during the 2 weeks. They learn leadership, teamwork, and behavioral diversity. Using the DISC behavior model, we go through emotional intelligence. Approximately 95% of the people that go through the program through the community colleges matriculate in some sort of engineering B.S. degree program. The flyer and application are on the MET2 website. The deadline for applications is December 10, 2021. The Winter Intersession runs from January 3 – 14, 2022.

Eric Flynn noted that sixteen students will be accepted this year. The technology part will be a crash course in CAD, 3D printing, and other manufacturing technologies. Over the spring semester, students will be making aerospace parts that use some advanced composites, fiberglass, and carbon fiber.

Rich DuPont noted that Collin Cooper asked him what we are doing to support the Vineyard Wind Project and if we need any help and asked who qualifies to participate in MET2. Eric and John responded that any STEM students with an interest in engineering and manufacturing technologies can participate. Karen noted that they will connect with Rich regarding the wind project.

College of Technology – National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing Updates - Dr. Karen Wosczyna-Birch, Executive Director, COT-NCNGM

- APRC Process Update - Thank you to all of you and to Sharon and the curriculum committee and to Mary Bidwell and also the manufacturing directors in submitting paperwork and meeting deadlines. We are going to receive preliminary questions or feedback on Monday and then the full committee review will be next Friday and we are the only group on the agenda. If you want to sit in on the meeting, let us know because you have to be invited. Eric Flynn of Gateway Community College noted that his legacy engineering technology programs were approved by the APRC.
- Tech Times Newsletter – submit news items to Wendy Robicheau at wrobicheau@commnet.edu
- The Epsilon Pi Tau Gamma Phi Induction Ceremony is scheduled for April 29, 2022 at Manchester Community College. There are capacity limitations due to COVID, but there may be more capacity closer to the event. We will be looking for faculty and honorary inductees also.
- There is a CLICKs Program Info Session on Dec. 8th. An email will go out for registration. This is the virtual program where faculty from Connecticut and France collaborate to co-teach course modules and co-facilitate research projects that students from both courses work on together.
- The French Embassy will be holding their France Bootcamps in-person next year. The Application Deadline: February 15, 2022 and the application will be opening in December. NSF grants will be able to cover the tuition and airfare costs that are the responsibility of the student.
- CT Space Consortium Quadcopter Challenge – Application Deadline: November 29, 2021. Student teams of 3-6 students from community colleges are eligible to apply. No previous experience is needed. If you're a community college advisor, you can get a $2000 stipend for advising a team. The students can receive $1000 stipends themselves. Students are provided with the equipment. The actual final challenge should be at the end of April. As many teams will be accepted as funding allows.
- CT State Manufacturing Strategic Plan – The goal is to have it completed in December. There will be a shorter version for reporting out and a longer internal document. This plan is aligning with the Governor's Workforce Council (GWC) Strategic Plan. We are hoping to use it as leverage to expand our programs and meet workforce needs. A group from our system has been meeting weekly with the Office of Workforce Strategies (OWS) for the past year to work on the strategic plan and also provide updates between CSCU and the OWS. We are encouraged to sign up for the GWC subcommittees.

- Manufacturing Innovation Fund – The is a lot of money being put toward manufacturing in the state. This includes funds for a marketing campaign for manufacturing. There is also more money coming for incumbent worker training.
- Collaboration with Regional Workforce Development Officers – These are three relatively new positions that oversee anything related to workforce development. We work with them to maximize opportunities for our students.
- National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing:
  - Diversity in Manufacturing Workshop - This is with our system office, we have Kim James hall who is now the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We are working with her to do a workshop that will be focused on manufacturing.
  - ASEE Industry 4.0 Summit – April 25-26, 2022 – Washington, DC – Registration will be open soon. Let us know if you need travel funding. This is an opportunity to connect with industry and it's a national conference.

Credentialing Initiatives - Dr. Karen Wosczyna- Birch, Executive Director, COT-NCNGM
- Our system just recently signed a contract with Google also then with Amazon about 2 months ago. We are currently working on a contract with Intel and thank you for those of you who participated in that deep dive. For Google and Amazon, Amazon in particular, there is a very strong non-credit piece, but then we're looking also at ways to integrate those certificates certifications into our credit classes. And Crystal has done amazing work on a course integrating the Google certifications. We have some challenges with the Google because the contract was with Coursera. So that's the platform right now. We are continuing to schedule meetings for those interested in any of these initiatives. A couple weeks ago Secretary Cordona came to Connecticut. There was a panel at Middlesex Community College that was on workforce. As part of that panel the Google initiative was also announced. There was an Amazon press conference at Gateway Community College a couple months ago.

- We are currently waiting for feedback to respond to questions and feedback from the APRC. Thank you to everyone who has helped us with the curriculum alignment.

- This week was to Aerospace Alley Tradeshow hosted by the Aerospace Components Manufacturers (ACM). There were about 1100 students registered to attend. Several of our community colleges had booths there. Karen Wosczyna-Birch was also invited to be a guest on the Made in America Podcast hosted by Ari Santiago.

- Alyce Stiles of CCAT noted that the COT is partnering with CCAT on an Additive Manufacturing Forum for next spring.

Upcoming COT Meetings
Friday, December 10th, 2021
Friday, February 11th, 2022
Friday, March 11th, 2022
Friday, April 8th, 2022
Friday, May 13th, 2022

Other Important Dates
April 25th – 26th, 2022 – ASEE Industry 4.0 Summit – Washington, DC
April 29th, 2022 – Epsilon Pi Tau Gamma Phi Chapter Induction Ceremony

COT Site Coordinators Meeting Attendence - November 12, 2022

Name	Organization
CT State Colleges & Universities	
Karen Wosczyna-Birch	College of Technology - National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing
Wendy Robicheau	College of Technology - National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing
Rich DuPont	North-West Region
Eric Flynn	Gateway CC
Susan Spencer	Gateway CC
Felisha Guirand-Fleurimond	Housatonic CC
Stella Litwinowicz	Housatonic CC
Adam Scobie	Housatonic CC
Mehrdad Faezi	Manchester CC
Richard Gnall	Manchester CC
Steven Moore	Manchester CC
Tracy Ariel	Manchester & Middlesex CCs
Lin Lin	Middlesex CC
Andre Freeman	Capital CC
Narendra Sharma	Naugatuck Valley CC
Crystal Wiggins	Northwestern CT CC
Dr. John (Lalit) Jagtiani	Northwestern CT CC
Mobin Rastgar Agah	Norwalk CC
Jakob Spjut	Quinebaug Valley CC
Jodi Clark	Quinebaug Valley CC
Stephen LaPointe	Quinebaug Valley CC
Michael Gentry	Three Rivers CC
Brendan Mascarenhas	Tunxis CC
Ravindra Thamma	Central CT State University
Matthew Enjalran	Southern CT State University
Lesley Mara	CT State Colleges & Universities
Thomas Coley	CT State Colleges & Universities, Shoreline Region
James Lombella	CT State Colleges & Universities, North-West Region
Other Institutions	
Joseph DiNatale	CT Technical Education & Career System
Daniel Burkey	Uconn

Harvey Hoffman	Fairfield University
Stephanie Gillespie	University of New Haven
Hisham Alnajjar	University of Hartford
Laurie Granstrand	University of Hartford
Other Organizations	
Alyce Stiles	CT Center for Advanced Technology
Ron Fernandez	GE
Eric Muzzillo	GE

Total Attendees: