



## College of Technology – Site Coordinators Meeting

Date: Friday, November 13, 2020

Virtual Meeting

### ATTENDEES

#### CT State Colleges & Universities

Karen Wosczyzna-Birch, Executive Director, College of Technology – Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing  
Wendy Robicheau, Project Manager, College of Technology – Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing  
Sue Spencer, Program Coordinator, Gateway CC  
Stephen LaPointe, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Quinebaug Valley CC  
Eric Flynn, Department Chair – Engineering & Applied Technologies, Gateway CC  
Mary Bidwell, Dean of Advanced Manufacturing, Asnuntuck & Tunxis Community Colleges  
Adam Scobie, Instructor, Housatonic CC  
Joe DeFeo, Director, Naugatuck Valley CC  
Lin Lin, Program Coordinator, Middlesex CC  
Jakob Spjut, Program Coordinator, Quinebaug Valley CC  
Mobin Rastgar Agah, Professor, Norwalk CC  
Sharon Gusky, Professor, Northwestern CT CC  
Crystal Wiggins, STEM DC, Northwestern CT CC  
Mehrddad Faezi, Professor, Manchester CC  
Michael Gentry, Program Coordinator, Three Rivers CC  
Andre Freeman, Professor, Capital CC  
Deirdre D'Amore, STEM Recruitment & Retention, Naugatuck Valley CC  
Mathew Spinelli, STEAM Director, Tunxis CC  
Asheka Rahman, Program Coordinator, Tunxis CC  
Stella Litwinowicz, Assistant Professor, Housatonic CC  
Tracy Ariel, Director, Manufacturing, Manchester & Middlesex Community Colleges  
Matthew Enjalran, Professor & Chair, Physics, Southern CT State University  
Segun Odesina, Associate Dean, Central CT State University  
Jemiel Rose, Project Director, CT State Colleges & Universities  
James Lombella, North-West Regional President, CT State Colleges & Universities  
Jordan Domkowski, Academic Advisor, STEAM & Advanced Manufacturing, Tunxis Community College  
Richard Gnall, Professor, Manchester Community College  
Paul Resetarits, Professor, Manufacturing & Construction Management, Central CT State University  
Lesley Mara, Director of Strategic Partnerships, CT State Colleges & Universities  
Rich DuPont, Director of Community & Campus Relations, AMTC, Housatonic CC  
Mark Vesligaj, Professor, Three Rivers CC  
Jodi Clark, Assistant Director, Manufacturing, Quinebaug Valley CC  
Felisha G. Fleurimond, Recruitment/Retention Coordinator, Housatonic CC

#### Other College & Universities

Laurie Granstrand, Manager of Graduate Programs, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, University of Hartford  
Harvey Hoffman, Associate Dean, School of Engineering, Fairfield University  
Daniel Burkey, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education and Diversity, School of Engineering, University of Connecticut

#### High Schools

Cristina Stisser, Manufacturing Cluster, CT Technical Education & Career System

#### Other

Kelli Vallieres, Consultant, CT State Colleges & Universities and Executive Director, CT Workforce Development Unit, DECD  
John Birch, Executive Director, MET2 Program  
Ellen Tower, Steering Committee Member, American Manufacturing Hall of Fame  
Barbara Johnson, Steering Committee Member, American Manufacturing Hall of Fame  
Candace Williams, Director of Policy Research & Strategic Initiatives, New England Board of Higher Education  
Charlotte Peyser, Senior Policy and Research Analyst, New England Board of Higher Education  
Marty Guay, Vice President, Business Development, Stanley Black & Decker

Steve Barkanic, Senior Vice President & Chief Program Officer, Business-Higher Education Forum  
Timothy Clark, Steering Committee Member, American Manufacturing Hall of Fame  
Stephanie Blochinger, Associate Program Director, Business-Higher Education Forum  
Laura Baker, Workforce Development Specialist, Workforce Development Unit, CT Department of Economic & Community Development  
Don Venditto, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Workforce Development Unit, CT Department of Economic & Community Development

## MINUTES

**Welcome Remarks**– Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch, Executive Director, College of Technology-Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (COT-RCNGM)

- An overview of the agenda was provided and Dr. James Lombella was acknowledged for supporting the College of Technology (COT).

## **Overview of New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) and Business – Higher Education Forum (BHEF) Project-**

- Steve Barkanic – BHEF is over 40 years old and has developed over 50 projects nationwide.
- Candace Williams – Candace filled in for Michael Thomas, President & CEO of NEBHE. NEBHE's role is to help convene higher education partners and see that this project as an opportunity that is scalable across the region.
- Marty Guay – Stanley Black & Decker is a member of BHEF, which convenes business and higher education for alignment. This project focuses on digital credentials, digital literacy, and digital fluency. COVID exposed the gap in digital literacy. Stanley Black & Decker has talked to all the larger corporations in Connecticut and higher education in Connecticut. There needs to be alignment across all community colleges all the way up to the four-year universities. Digital skills are the ticket for the future. Stanley Black & Decker is part of the Governor's Workforce Council (GWC) and wants to make sure the work being done aligns.
- Kelli Vallieres – The work being done by the GWC looks at how we can create a system for workforce development. Jobs of the future will be built on technology and digital literacy. This initiative fits into the work of the GWC. The COT is a great model to build out pathways and programs. Looking forward to participating in next steps.
- Karen Wosczyzna-Birch – The next step will be to bring a group together in December to start a discussion on the curriculum.
- Stephanie Blochinger – One finding from business analysis is that tech skills in manufacturing and healthcare are more prevalent than other industries. Next steps are validating KSAs with industry and curriculum mapping with the community colleges, starting with digital generalist.
- James Lombella – This is a good example of working together and thank you to Kelli for bringing these groups together.
- Lesley Mara – In her role, she is in discussion with national foundations interested in adult learners and digital literacy.
- Marty Guay thanked James Lombella for what he has done with Asnuntuck Community College and Tunxis Community College because we need to prepare students for careers.
- Karen Wosczyzna-Birch recognized the COT Site Coordinators for their hard work and COT received a national award at the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (HI TEC) this year.
- Steve Barkanic suggested going to [BHEF.com/publications](https://BHEF.com/publications) for the paper on purposeful partnerships.
- Kellie Vallieres – This is a good kickoff today. The December meeting will bring in all other stakeholders so everyone is aware of the work going on. CONNSTEP received a grant to collect data on manufacturing credentials and are working with Kelli and Candace Williams to make sure all of the data is collected.

**College of Technology – Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing** - Dr. Karen Wosczyzna Birch, Executive Director, COT-RCNGM

- 180 Skills has a new contact, Laura Baker who works for Kelli Vallieres at DECD. Laura is the contact for access to 180 Skills for COT Site Coordinators to use in their classrooms. She is on a fact-finding mission to see how 180 Skills is being used in classrooms. She can be contacted with any questions. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch asked if we can do another workshop for the faculty. Laura said yes, another workshop can be done and there are also prerecorded sessions available. The login link is <https://180skills.litmos.com/account/login/>? If you have trouble logging in, Laura's email is [laura.m.baker@ct.gov](mailto:laura.m.baker@ct.gov). Mary Bidwell noted that 180 Skills is a great resource to offer

students over breaks. Mark Vesligaj asked if we are engaging with other platforms for statewide discounts. Kelli Vallieres noted that ToolingU licenses were purchased for the unemployed in response to COVID with CARES funding but there is not any CARES funding left for more licenses.

- CT Business and Industry Association (CBIA) [2020 Manufacturing Report](#) – These reports are always referenced for data on manufacturing workforce needs. The COT-RCNGM and community college manufacturing programs are mentioned.
- Governor’s Workforce Council (GWC) [Workforce Strategic Plan 2020](#) – This plan will drive a lot of initiatives in Connecticut.
- Tech Times Newsletter – We are trying to distribute this statewide and nationally. Submit any news items to Wendy Robicheau at [wrobicheau@commnet.edu](mailto:wrobicheau@commnet.edu). James Lombella thanked Karen Wosczyzna-Birch and Wendy Robicheau for putting the newsletter together. Everyone please submit content. It does get to legislators and key stakeholders.
- Smart Manufacturing Workshop (Virtual)– December 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> – Application: [www.nsfsmart.org](http://www.nsfsmart.org) – This will be a virtual workshop. Participants will receive a \$400 stipend and a drone to assemble and code.
- The National Center for Autonomous Technologies (NCAT) will be holding a webinar series. NCAT is a National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education Center that was funded in 2019. It’s focus is on autonomous technologies. The COT-RCNGM also held a workshop on drones for educators and will have the student Saturday Program on drones for high school students in the spring. The Saturday Program also has a focus on professional skills.
- The French Embassy announced their annual bootcamps for Summer 2021 – [Application Deadline](#): January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. These bootcamps are two weeks. The cost is the flight plus 1000 euros. The remainder of the tuition, room and board, ground transportation, and meals are covered by the French Embassy. Our NSF grant can cover the flight and tuition for students. Faculty can participate as well.
  - [Female Business Founders](#) – June 7 – June 20, 2021
  - [Mountains in a Changing World](#) – June 21 – July 2, 2021
  - [Sustainable Design](#) – July 12 – July 25, 2021
- We also have a travel grant through the National Science Foundation for students and faculty to go to France, but it is on hold due to COVID. Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College also has a travel grant that is on hold until 2022.
- Our Epsilon Pi Tau induction ceremony was held virtual in May for 84 students. The International Office is holding its first Epsilon Pi Tau Global Forum presentation, *Nonverbal Communication in the Workplace* by Dr. Nina-Jo Moore, on November 18, 2020 at 8:00pm EST. The Warner Award applications are currently open and due by January 15, 2021.
- 5 students from Connecticut were selected to present posters during the National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education Principal Investigators Conference. There were only 30 students chosen nationwide. Two students were from Northwestern CT CC, one was from Tunxis CC, and two were from Gateway CC. The Gateway CC student was also invited to participate in a panel where students discussed their experiences with attending college during COVID. Sharon Gusky also had a student enter the National Science Foundation’s Four-Year College Poster Competition.
- John Birch announced that the MET2 Program Winter Intersession will run Monday, January 4 through January 15, 2021. This program prepares students with the professional and technical skills they need for careers in manufacturing. The skills covered come from CT Business and Industry Association reports. Students have to do a corporate level strategic plan. Students from the program have gone on to West Point and to teach at Annapolis. The program ratings are currently 4.7 out of 5. Once the Winter Intersession is over students work in teams on their projects for the rest of the semester. This year 20 students will be accepted and they will receive a stipend for their work. The application deadline is December 11<sup>th</sup>. Eric Flynn noted that this is a good program because students from different engineering and technology disciplines work together. This year’s project will use AR/VR to create virtual environments in manufacturing.

#### **American Manufacturing Hall of Fame Overview**

- Dr. James Lombella noted that the theme of today’s meeting is collaboration. The American Manufacturing Hall of Fame (AMHoF) is a group of volunteers who came together to work with Housatonic Community College to provide scholarships to manufacturing students. The AMHoF has raised over \$500,000 so far.

- Rich DuPont noted that the AMHoF started at Housatonic Community College seven years ago. John Ratzenberger was the spokesman in the beginning. Barbara Johnson is retired from People's United Bank and is the President of the Housatonic Community College Foundation. Ellen Tower is retired from Citibank.
- Tim Clark noted that he was a latecomer to the AMHoF team when Warner Bros., an apparel company, was inducted. This company was started by his family and this was how he became involved. Twenty-nine members have been inducted since 2014. The AMHoF is at the point where it wants to expand statewide.
- Barbara Johnson started this together with her husband, Carl. It started when the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center at Housatonic Community College was taking off. They did not want there to be a cost to students and wanted to start a scholarship program. Each manufacturing inductee has a video made about them and they receive an award. It is important this remains unbiased. Over \$300,000 of the money raised has gone directly to students.
- Ellen Tower noted that the AMHoF has a Steering Committee and each member is responsible for building relationships with sponsors. There are 26 different sponsors and the majority have been with the AMHoF for six years. Sponsors are highlighted at the induction ceremony and keep regular contact that includes face-to-face feedback about the ceremony. The Steering Committee also creates messaging and marketing, keeps the materials crisp, and delivers a monthly marketing campaign.
- Tim Clark noted that it is fascinating to see how the event has become an important networking event for manufacturers.
- Rich DuPont noted that a hidden gem of the AMHoF is industry input.
- Jim Lombella thanked the team for the lives they've already impacted and is looking forward to their continued work.

#### **COT Curriculum Alignment Charge – Recommended Changes to Technology Studies A.S. Degree**

Dr. Karen Wosczyzna Birch, Executive Director, COT-RCNGM and Sharon Gusky, Professor, Northwestern CT Community College and Chair, COT Curriculum Committee

- Sharon Gusky noted the COT Curriculum Committee's recommended changes to the Technology Studies A.S. degree. When the changes are finalized, aligning the Options will be next.
  - 1. Combine directed and specialization electives into one category – Specialization Electives Rationale: The course selections for each category are the same
  - 2. Move the CAD elective to the Specialization Electives category Rationale: not all options require CAD ie Biomolecular Sciences and Data Science do not require CAD
  - 3. Add MAT 165 to the list of accepted Statistics courses. Rationale: It meets the outcomes required for the program.
  - 4. Replace GEO, POL and HIS elective with the CCS101 BOR required course ONLY if this course will be accepted for credit by CCSU and UHART Rationale: We can only agree to this if CCS101 transfers as a course counting toward the 4yr degree. Students already have a Social science elective HIS or ECO
  - 5. Need to make sure that the students do not lose 3 credits when Technical Writing(3cr) and Public Speaking (3cr) transfer to CCSU as a 3cr ENGR 290, they should also be getting 3 elective credits.
- Segun Odesina noted that at Central CT State University CCS 101 would come in as free electives (there are 7-12 free elective credits). Currently, Technical Writing and Public Speaking come in together to satisfy EGR 290 at Central CT State University. Paul Resetarits noted that Public Speaking would be better to keep rather than Technical Writing. Jakob Spjut noted we could get rid of Technical Writing and still satisfy the general education requirements. Sharon Gusky noted that if we want Technical Writing for certain Options, it can go under specialization electives. Laurie Granstrand noted University of Hartford transfers Public Speaking, but it does not count toward the degree (not even as an elective), but Technical Writing does transfer into the degree as one of two required technical writing courses. Mehrdad Faezi, Andre Freeman, Mobin Rastgar Agah, and Sue spencer are in agreement for reducing the number of credits as long as it does not affect students. A suggestion was made to look into developing a communication course for engineering and technology in the future that covers technical writing and public speaking.
- University of Hartford will not accept more than one credit of FYE (CCS 101).
- Motion to remove Technical Writing as a required course and it can be taken as a specialization elective by Sharon Gusky, Northwestern CT Community College; Motion seconded by Mehrdad Faezi. The motion was unanimously approved with no objections or abstentions.

- Motion to approve the revisions to the Technology Studies A.S. Degree core curriculum as noted above but do not eliminate the GEO/POL/HIS elective by Sharon Gusky, Northwestern CT Community College; Motion seconded by Mobin Rastgar Agah. The motion was unanimously approved with no objections or abstentions.
- Sharon Gusky noted the COT Curriculum Committee will be looking at Technology Studies Options and Engineering Science next.

Upcoming COT Site Coordinators Meetings

(all meetings will be held virtually from 9:00am – 12:00pm EST unless otherwise noted)

- December 4, 2020
- January 29, 2021
- February 12, 2021
- March 12, 2021
- April 9, 2021
- May 14, 2021