

## College of Technology – Site Coordinators Meeting

Date: Friday, November 18, 2022 Time: 9:00AM

Location: Virtual

### CT State Colleges & Universities

Karen Wosczyzna-Birch, Executive Director, College of Technology – National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing  
Wendy Robicheau, Assistant Director – National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing  
Adam Scobie, Advanced Manufacturing Center Director, Housatonic CC  
Felisha G. Fleurimond, Recruitment/Retention Coordinator, Housatonic CC  
Sue Spencer, Program Coordinator, Gateway CC  
Sharon Gusky, Professor, Northwestern CT CC  
Charles Paulsen, Adjunct Faculty, Gateway Community College; Instructor, MET2 Program  
Stella Litwinowicz, Professor, Housatonic CC  
Keith Carter, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center Director, Middlesex CC  
John Jagiani, Faculty, Program Coordinator, Northwestern CT CC  
Steve LaPointe, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Quinebaug Valley CC  
Eric Flynn, Department Chair – Engineering & Applied Technologies, Gateway CC  
Deirdre D'Amore, Guided Pathways Advisor, Naugatuck Valley CC  
Jakob Spjut, Program Coordinator, Quinebaug Valley CC  
Mary Bidwell, Dean of Advanced Manufacturing, Asnuntuck & Tunxis Community Colleges and Statewide Liaison, Advanced Manufacturing  
Sharon Lutkus, Interim Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Naugatuck Valley CC  
Mathew Spinelli, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Manchester CC  
Mehrdad Faezi, Professor, Manchester CC  
Richard Gnall, Professor, Manchester CC  
Matthew Enjalran, Professor & Chair, Physics, Southern CT State University  
Ravindra Thamma, Professor, Central CT State University  
Lesley Mara, AVP, Systemwide Initiatives and Sponsored Programs, CT State Colleges & Universities  
Doreen Forbes-Rogers, Project Director, CT SHIP  
H. Justin Moore, Dean, School of Engineering & Technology, CT State Community College  
Rich DuPont, Interim Associate Dean – Advanced Manufacturing Centers, Northwest Region  
Amy Feest, Associate Vice President for Programs and Curriculum, CT State  
Renee Dunbar, Microcredential Coordinator, Tunxis CC/CT SHIP  
Hong Zhou

### Other College & Universities

Stephanie Gillespie, Associate Dean, Tagliatela College of Engineering, University of New Haven  
Kylene Perras, Assistant Dean, Administrative Operations & Strategic Initiatives, School of Engineering, University of Connecticut

### Other

Eileen Candels, Director of Partnerships, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.  
John Birch, Executive Director, MET2 Program

## MINUTES

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

### **Attendee Introductions – All Attendees**

#### **Microcredentials & Digital Badges and CT SHIP Grant Updates, Renee Dunbar, Microcredential Coordinator**

- Wendy Robicheau of the NCNGM noted that we may want to discuss a microcredentials subcommittee of the College of Technology. Renee Dunbar is putting together some forms and information on microcredentials and it would be helpful to have a committee to review these items and make sure COT is represented.
- Renee Dunbar is developing resources to learn more about microcredentials, digital badges, and how to develop them. Important items to consider are documenting your goals, making industry connections, and forming a governance structure before developing the microcredential. Then you can design a framework by considering the courses, learning

experiences, and online modules that you will need. You will also have to consider pathways the microcredentials fit into as well as metadata and digital badges. The next step is putting together the actual proposal, which there will be forms for. The final step after the microcredential is approved is to market it and build it into the credentialing platform. After launching a microcredential you will also want to review analytics and determine how many people were interested and earned a digital badge and how many shared it. It is important that microcredentials align with industry needs and certification standards and should also fit into a stackable credential model. Microcredentials are driven by knowledge, skills, and abilities that industry needs their employees to have.

- The CT SHIP grant, funded by the US Department of Labor, will involve for credit degrees and certificates and non-credit certificates including surgical technology, health information management, patient care, central sterile processing, medical office assistant, professional coder, and medical billing and coding. Five of our community colleges are partners on CT SHIP.
- Lesley Mara of CT State College & Universities (CSCU) noted that the Provost created a task force for microcredentials and digital badges that had come up with definitions of what these are for the system. He is now convening a group to look at framework and parameters for microcredentials. This would be part of the process for CT SHIP too and to clarify, there is not a call to action for COT today. Charter Oak State College is already a lead with microcredentials and we will look at what they are doing and assess what is already out there too. We want to make sure key stakeholders are involved in these discussions and look at our individual project needs but also the system as a whole. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that Renee is on Charter Oak's microcredential group and Karen is on Charter Oak's Academic Council and what Renee presented today is very similar. Karen is also on the system microcredential task force.

### CT State Discussions and Updates

- **Statewide Discipline Councils Discussion** – Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that a document was recently distributed that identifies the Statewide Discipline Councils for CT State and asked Justin Moore, Dean of CT State's School of Engineering & Technology, to lead the discussion. Justin noted that there was a webinar last week to discuss CT State's curriculum governance and shared a slide of the proposed councils. The School of Engineering & Technology has the most degrees and certificates and at last count, we were at 85 degrees and certificates and they cannot all fit on the one slide. The catalog is a draft right now, but you can access it and submit changes that need to be made to fix errors. These changes can be sent to Justin. Mehrdad Faezi of Manchester Community College shared an updated slide where he made the council more inclusive and changed the numbered lists to bulleted lists. Justin agreed with the bullets and shared a revised list he put together. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that we want to identify the TAP and COT Pathways as well in degree names. Justin responded that that was taken out due to character limits, but these are noted in other areas where the programs are located. Richard Gnall of Manchester Community College noted that he sent two pages of corrections for the catalog but he does not see that changes. Justin noted there is one person working on the catalog so corrections are backlogged at the moment. Amy Feest of CT State noted that corrections need to be in so the catalog can be finalized. Justin noted these statewide discipline councils will be evolving over the next couple years. Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College asked about listing COT and TAP on transcripts for our transfer students and Justin responded that he would have to ask the registrar about that since it is a Banner topic. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch added that COT was listed when it was not digital transcripts and even the university applications had a spot to check if a student was in a COT program. Sharon Gusky also noted that in the discipline chart, all the COT programs are in the same block except data science even though it is a Technology Studies program and while math faculty may have said they want it under them, faculty can work across disciplines but the program should be under the control of the COT. Amy Feest noted she thought the COT is broad enough that it can be over multiple disciplines and we can discuss this further and that there was a very thoughtful conversation about data science with the data science faculty. While COT programs may be under different schools, the COT would still exist as an advisory council. Jakob Spjut of Quinebaug Valley Community College noted that without an approval process through the COT programs could go forward where the COT as a whole does not have input, which could impact transferability of programs. Amy Feest commented that with articulation agreements in place and university representatives at the COT Meetings, students should not need to indicate that they are a COT student. Wendy Robicheau of the NCNGM noted that universities ask that students indicate they are COT students at least in their essays. Mary Bidwell of Asnuntuck and Tunxis Community Colleges noted that somewhere along the line someone would notice if the program did not go through COT. Karen noted that Provost Jane Gates would send back a COT program if it did not have COT approval before going to the Academic Council. Wendy will create a Teams folder so COT site coordinators and Justin can share documents with each other.
- **NASA CT Space Grant Consortium** – Justin Moore noted that he is not sure how the Space Grant Consortium will work with CT State so maybe we can add this as an agenda item for the next meeting so he can look into it. Each community college is independent right now, but we do not know how it will work as we become one institution. Jakob Spjut of Quinebaug Valley Community College can help facilitate a conversation with University of Hartford who oversees the Space Grant Consortium and maybe pull in math and science and Amy Feest.
- **Prerequisites** – Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted she was in a meeting where there was concern over prerequisites and that some courses being transferred to Central CT State University (CCSU) do not have the appropriate prerequisites. The

faculty member who brought it up was invited to today's meeting but was not able to attend. They feel that while CCSU is accepting the students and courses, they feel the students are not coming in prepared and are questioning whether the courses should be accepted and transferred. Karen reached out to Steve Minkler, who was at Middlesex Community College and is now Interim Dean of the School of Engineering, Science, and Technology at CCSU, and asked to follow up on this and asked for more details on the specific courses. He responded that one is the statics course and the CCSU faculty member said the community colleges do not require calculus or physics. Jakob Spjut noted that the community colleges do require calculus, but there are non-calculus-based statics courses and maybe students are self-advising into the wrong course for their program. Jakob also noted that you do not need to require calculus-based Physics I before taking statics. Karen also talked to Justin, and he responded that we need more information, and we need to determine if they are talking about COT programs or legacy programs, which are algebra based. Karen noted that COT students have to take a very prescribed set of courses in order for CCSU to accept all of the credits for seamless transfer. She will get more information and bring it back to this group as they were also questioning whether the community college faculty were qualified to teach the courses. Jakob and Justin clarified that calculus-based physics is required in the Engineering Science program but is not a prerequisite. Mary Bidwell of Asnuntuck and Tunxis Community Colleges noted that CCSU came to Asnuntuck this summer for help with a design and engineering course that they did not have equipment for to do a hands-on project with newly hired Pratt & Whitney engineers. They had a weeklong collaboration where they created a hole punch using Asnuntuck's lab. Asnuntuck can help with a similar one-week program for Engineering Science students or even industry partners if anyone is interested.

#### **Advanced Manufacturing Updates, Mary Bidwell, Interim Dean Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Asnuntuck and Tunxis Community Colleges & Statewide Liaison for Manufacturing Programs**

- Mary noted that there are a couple of job descriptions that they are waiting on approval on for the one college structure. Justin Moore, Amy Feest, Dr. Lombella, and I had a great meeting about how it would help our advanced manufacturing programs if we all have the same job titles and positions.
- Mary welcomed Keith Carter as the new Advanced Manufacturing Director at Middlesex, who was hired in October.
- Joe DeFeo who was Advanced Manufacturing Director at Naugatuck Valley retired and Sharon Lutkus is the new Interim Advanced Manufacturing Director there. Capital and Manchester are finishing up their searches for directors.
- Rich DuPont of the North-West Region noted that Laura McCarthy of Northwestern CT Community College is doing a lot of work to build a very engaging manufacturing community in their region. Mary added that she is not a director, and this is just an added onto her position and she is doing a wonderful job.
- There are not any updates on Career Connect dollars. This is under the Office of Workforce Strategies, and they are setting up a portal for short-term training that will hopefully be live next month. Many of the programs around the state will be offered, not only in manufacturing, but also healthcare, IT, and green jobs. The plan is to have short-term training lead into our certificates.
- The Department of Economic and Community Development had the funding for the Hearts and Minds Campaign, which is around changing the hearts and minds of young people and parents around manufacturing. They gave \$750,000 to system office to create a campaign for advanced manufacturing through The O'Donnell Group and that is starting to roll out. Ads will be on Facebook, Instagram, and billboards.
- Housatonic Community College celebrated their ten-year anniversary for their advanced manufacturing center a couple of weeks ago and had a nice event.

#### **MET<sup>2</sup> Program Recruitment – John Birch, Executive Director, MET<sup>2</sup> Program and Eric Flynn, Faculty Technical Lead, MET<sup>2</sup> Program**

- Chuck Paulsen of Gateway Community College is coming back to teach microcontrollers for the MET<sup>2</sup> Program this year.
- John Birch noted that the program started from a survey the COT did with manufacturers in CT to find out what they were lacking. Companies noted not only the technical skills, but also the professional and social skills. There have been over 500 participants in the program. The 2023 program will start with the Winter Intersession Workshop on January 3<sup>rd</sup> at Tunxis Community College. Students learn what the companies are looking for and they learn leadership skills, how to not only build and develop, but also participate on high performance teams, human behavior, emotional intelligence, workplace motivators, networking, strategic planning, and time management. About 97% of the students that have gone through the program have matriculated into a 4-year degree program. Many of our students have job offers before they graduate. Students get a stipend for working with us in the Winter Intersession and then another for their work in the spring. The students have to work on a self-managed team but receive guidance on issues that they cannot address for themselves.
- Eric Flynn noted that students receive a crash course in the technical skills that every good engineering or technology student needs during the Winter Intersession. Projects are proposed by industry and faculty. Southern Connecticut State University has a project that they are doing with sea life and scientific sensor development. We are bringing on new companies with new ideas. Any good engineering student needs some basic programming skills so we are bringing on Chuck, and he's going to talk about Arduinos for a few days. They need CAD design skills so we are going to bring on

Mehrdad Faezi from Manchester to do some Solidworks training. Eric will be presenting on fundamental electrical skills, 3D printing, and CNC manufacturing. Students can go to [www.met2program.org](http://www.met2program.org) to apply as well as look at previous projects. They will need to submit a one-page essay and be referred by a faculty member. Some participants are invited to conferences and to apply for a National Science Foundation Award that they receive at a conference in Washington, DC.

- John Birch noted that students get a \$750 stipend for the Winter Intersession and \$10/hour for work on their project over the spring semester for up to 100 hours.
- Eric Flynn noted that any industry on the call can propose projects and John Birch added that part of the intersession is having the companies come in and present the project during the Winter Intersession. These would be research projects, not production.
- Justin Moore noted he would distribute the application to all of the engineering and technology faculty. He added that they had several students from Naugatuck Valley participate and loved it.
- The dates for the Winter Intersession are January 3<sup>rd</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Karen Wosczyzna-Birch added that students are required to do a presentation at the last COT Meeting in May, which will be in-person.

#### **Report Out of COT and NCNGM Activities - Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch**

- Tunxis Foundation Economic Breakfast & Networking Event
  - This event was well-attended. Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch was on the panel led by Paul Lavoie, our Chief Manufacturing Officer for Connecticut. All of the panelists were female.
- The National Coalition of Advanced Technology Centers (NCATC) Fall Conference was held Sept. 20-22 in Charlotte, NC and our National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing held a leadership meeting in Charlotte the week before NCATC. It's taken almost a year to get fiscal arrangements and contracts in order with the national partners. Contracts have finally been approved by the Attorney General's Office.
- The National Career Pathways Network (NCPN) Conference was held Oct. 20 – 22 in Atlanta, GA and we had a presentation there.
- The National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education PI Conference was held Oct. 26 – 28 in Washington, DC. Karen, Sharon Gusky, Mehrdad Faezi, Wendy Robicheau, and Eric Flynn attended. We had students, including one high school student receive NSF Student/Alumni Awards and receive them during an awards breakfast. The students are covered for everything except airfare by the American Association of Community Colleges.
- Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) Conference was held Nov. 9 – 11 in Louisville, KY. Karen attended and this is where the Epsilon Pi Tau Board of Directors meets. They are trying to do some international initiatives.
- CT State Student Success Summits were held on Oct. 7 at Manchester CC and Nov. 4 at Housatonic CC. Mary Bidwell noted that Karen, Dr. Jim Lombella, and her provided a presentation on advanced manufacturing programs and the College of Technology during these summits for high school teachers, administrators, and counselors. Justin Moore and Steve LaPointe also provided presentations.
- Oliver Wolcott Tech held an open house on Nov. 2 where we had a booth set up.
- The National Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Program (NAMAP) held a convening on Nov. 15 at Three Rivers CC with a tour of Grasso Tech High School that we attended. November is National Apprenticeship Month. Wendy Robicheau noted that the grant staff was there along with IBM and other industry partners. She spoke with a gentleman from California who was jealous of the advanced manufacturing structure CT has in place. Rich DuPont noted that he was talking with the CT Commissioner of Labor and she wants to emphasize the significance of registered apprenticeships because that is what is most recognized by industry and most portable for those who participate. Karen noted we should reach out to Todd Berch from the Department of Labor for a list of registered apprenticeships.

#### **Upcoming Initiatives, Activities, and Important Dates - Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch**

- The CHIPS and Science Act is a legislative act at the federal level that is going to focus on the manufacturing of semiconductors. There is going to be a lot of money available through the various agencies, including the National Science Foundation. There will be a need to look at community colleges and technician education and how we are part of that supply chain in terms of the workforce. There is a new division in NSF called Technology Innovation Partnership (TIP) and they are providing a solicitation for potential grant awards for this new act. UMass invited the COT to be a partner on a proposal, but that is a very preliminary discussion. Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College noted that there is a Dear Colleague Letter from the NSF on enhancing engineering technology and advanced semiconductor manufacturing technician education that you can apply to if you already have a grant. Sharon would be happy to partner with someone who has semiconductor industry in their area. Karen added that our National Center can be a partner too. Sharon noted that Northwestern used to offer a soldering program and they still have all the equipment from that might be able to be used for training.

- Mary Bidwell of Asnuntuck and Tunxis Community Colleges noted that the Xometry Scholarships are available for advanced manufacturing students. The funding is held at Capital Community College's Foundation and Marisa Rubera is overseeing the distribution of funds. Students would go through the manufacturing directors at their campuses, who would then follow up with Marisa.
- The AARP Manufacturing Scholarships are still available. Contact Wendy Robicheau for more information. The requirements for eligibility are that the student must be enrolled in community college advanced manufacturing program, be age 50+, and be willing to share success story with COT, NCNGM, and AARP at local and national levels.
- The [Journal of Advanced Technological Education](#) is a brand-new journal that has been put together and is focused on technology education. Karen is one of their editors. If anybody wants to do a peer reviewed publication, it is a great journal to submit to. It can be in all aspects of advanced technology education.
- The annual Association for Career & Technical Education (ACTE) CareerVision will be held Nov. 30 – Dec. 3 in Las Vegas, NV.

Upcoming COT Meetings – All meetings are 9:00am – 12:00pm

December 16, 2022

February 3, 2023

March 3, 2023

April 21, 2023

May 17, 2023