College of Technology – Site Coordinators Meeting
Date: Friday, December 4, 2020
Time: 9:00AM
Virtual Meeting

ATTENDEES

CT State Colleges & Universities
Karen Wosczyna-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
Lin Lin, Program Coordinator, Middlesex CC
Jakob Spjut, Program Coordinator, Quinebaug Valley CC
Mobin Rastgar Agah, Professor, Norwalk CC
Crystal Wiggins, STEM DC, Northwestern CT CC
Mehrdad 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
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
Mark Vesligaj, Professor, Three Rivers CC
Jorge Gonzalez, Assistant Professor, CIS/Cybersecurity, Tunxis Community College
Ju Kim, Dean, School of Engineeing, Science, and Technology, Central CT State University

Other College & Universities
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
Marty Guay, Vice President, Business Development, Stanley Black & Decker
Steve Barkanic, Senior Vice President & Chief Program Officer, Business-Higher Education Forum
Stephanie Blochinger, Associate Program Director, Business-Higher Education Forum
Ben Hensley, Strategic Development & Initiative Specialist, Capital Workforce Partners
Cathy Awaad, Executive Director, Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board
Eric Brown, Vice President, Manufacturing Policy & Outreach, CT Business & Industry Association
Jill Watson, Manager of Special Grants & Projects, Workforce Alliance
Brian Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer, Business-Higher Education Forum
Alex Johnson – President & CEO, Capital Workforce Partners
Jason Trujillo, Vice President, Performance Resiliency & Transformation, Stanley Black & Decker
Khai Thomas, Management Consultant, Accenture

Amy Richman, VP of Global Talent Acquisition, Pitney Bowes
Michael Thomas, President and CEO, New England Board of Higher Education
Jeff Auker, Associate VP, Head of Innovation & Delivery, Infosys
Mark Hill, CEO, Eastern Workforce Investment Board
Amy Depatie, Leadership Development Director, CIGNA
Natasha Hepburn, Director of Technology Leadership Development, CIGNA
Diane Cantello, Vice President, Social Impact, Stanley Black and Decker
Christine Benz, Training & Development Manager, TRUMPF
Ron Angelo, President & CEO, CT Center for Advanced Technology

MINUTES

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

Introductions by All Attendees

Digital Fields Pathways Discussion
- The Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF) and New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) partnership was introduced during the last College of Technology Meeting.
- Brian Fitzgerald thanked Marty Guay for industry outreach. BHEF has been around for over 40 years. It is important to start this pathway with market analysis. (see attached slides)
- Eric Brown asked what the aim of the program is. Stephanie Blochinger answered that that the purpose is to develop the digital skills pathway and bring it to more partners. Marty Guay added that workforce development is most important and that digital skills are important for anyone looking for employment; Stanley Black & Decker endorse this model and wants to be in complete lock step with the ecosystem.
- Kellie Vallieres asked is there is curriculum developed on the KSAs yet. Stephanie Blochinger answered that the aim is a credit-bearing program and they are looking to incorporate the KSAs into existing programs rather than creating new programs. There is some curriculum in Connecticut that aligns with the KSAs.
- Karen Wosczyna-Birch noted that the COT has a Data Science Option that was created by Crystal Wiggins and first implemented at Northwestern CT CC and has been replicated at Gateway CC, Capital CC, Tunxis CC, and Three Rivers CC.
- Brian Fitzgerald noted that BHEF convened about 20 companies in Miami that led to a pathway in data analytics.
- Kelli Vallieres noted that it is nice to be able to have programs available for the unemployed, but then to also have stackable credentials so they can keep going. Karen Wosczyna-Birch noted that we do have a stackable credential model already and are excited to incorporate this new program as well.
- Marty Guay noted that the KSAs were vetted through hiring managers internally then went to a whole host of small and large companies in Connecticut. Business and industry likes this concept for industry to give their needs and put them into curriculum.
- Jeff Auker is looking to drive the model with a built-in radar of what clients cannot get enough of and aligning training needs is important.
- Kelli Vallieres noted that the KSAs are digital literacy skills that are needed and this could also be brought to the high schools and middle schools.
- Steve Barkanic introduced Amy Richman from Pitney Bowes who is the lead on the project for data science and cybersecurity in the CUNY system. This project has both curricular and extra-curricular activities. Amy Richman noted that she has shared the KSAs internally and is looking for champions within her organization.
- Jim Lombella noted that this is an excellent opportunity to bring to high school and middle school students.
- Andre Freeman noted that enhancing the data science option to incorporate these KSAs is important and asked how we can continue this discussion on skills and what is needed for industry. Kelli Vallieres asked if other states issue a specific credential. Stephanie Blochinger stated that they meet with higher education and business and ask business to partner with higher education for work-based training. Each school certifies it in their own way on transcripts and some schools may create a credential through Credly. Karen Wosczyna-Birch noted that the plan is to convene a group of volunteers from faculty to explore how we offer this and how to identify it to

- employers. Andre Freeman noted to make sure the actual skill sets needed by industry are supported rather than just theory and to make sure collaboration with industry is continuous.
- Amy Richman noted that with the Baruch College (CUNY) project there were monthly technology bootcamps. Folks from the data science team would work with students during lunch periods. They shared different skills and showed how students could incorporate skills they are learning in school in their career. This culminated in a two-day data challenge.
- Jorge Gonzales noted that at Tunxis CC there is agreement of business and industry needs with curriculum being developed. He is looking for guidance on how cybersecurity is involved in this effort. Brian Fitzgerald noted that in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) area model, there is a generalist credential and KSA #6 would be considered more data hygiene. Cybersecurity would be considered a specialist credential. If you visit the BHEF website and click Reports and Case Studies, there are a lot of case studies on cybersecurity. The focus right now is the digital generalist credential. The grant funding is for 18 months to get that running.
- Jakob Spjut noted that Quinebaug Valley CC has a two-year cybersecurity program under computer science.
- Kelli Vallieres noted that there is a huge demand for cybersecurity in manufacturing and those with cybersecurity credentials to work in government in Connecticut.
- Karen Wosczyna-Birch noted that the next steps will include reaching out to the COT membership and include computer science faculty who may want to be involved. We will continue the industry collaboration as well. We will look into the examples of activities and workplace learning and into pathways with middle schools and high schools.
- Mike Gentry noted that Three Rivers has cybersecurity courses being developed. Data security is very important. The US Coast Guard Academy is one of the centers for cybersecurity in the US and has an annual hacking event.
- Michael Thomas noted that Candace Williams of the New England Board of Higher Education has worked on this project a lot. As we move forward, NEBHE will continue to work with BHEF and each partner will be involved in specific steps of the process. This collaboration creates a platform to create a digital generalist credential and then expand vertically and horizontally for other projects. This work is even more important now because of COVID.
- Brian Fitzgerald noted the project will be looking to companies to push KSAs out to more companies and will also start to look at a mapping process.
- Eric Brown noted that we also need to consider the supply chain for these programs in the form of students. Brian Fitzgerald noted that other programs have become the most popular on campus. One of the features of the grant is to reskilling Connecticut residents who became unemployed due to COVID.
- Paul Resetarits noted that Central CT State University has a B.S. degree in cybersecurity in their Computer Science Department that offers opportunity for articulation.

College of Technology – Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing - Dr. Karen Wosczyna Birch, Executive Director, COT-RCNGM
- Karen Wosczyna-Birch circled back to Laura Baker who assists with 180 Skills through DECD. The modules can be used in the classroom. Many faculty have access, but if you do not have access, contact Karen Wosczyna-Birch or Wendy Robicheau. There is also training available. 180 Skills is available through June 2021. We will have to start thinking if we want to renew the license and explore funding for it. Mehrdad Faezi noted that he had to change the modality to student to see all modules and inquired about a limit on licenses. Karen Wosczyna-Birch responded there are currently enough seats to not worry about a limit. Kelli Vallieres noted there are many additional modules that students may be interested in such as MS Office, finances, and employability. If it looks like the state investment in 180 Skills made an impact, there may be an opportunity for more funding. Laura Baker at DECD can also be contacted with any questions - Laura.M.Baker@ct.gov.
- Tech Times Newsletter items should be submitted to Wendy Robicheau – wrobicheau@commnet.edu.
- The ITEEA 2021 Virtual Conference will be held March 22-27, 2021. Registration is now open.
- Applications for the French Embassy Bootcamps are now open. The [Application deadline] is January 15th, 2021. Programs are two weeks. The French Embassy pays for half of the tuition, lodging, food, and ground transportation. Grants that the COT has will pay for the remainder of the tuition and airfare. The bootcamps are:

- o [Female Business Founders](#) – June 7 – June 20, 2021
- o [Mountains in a Changing World](#) – June 21 – July 2, 2021
- o [Sustainable Design](#) – July 12 – July 25, 2021
- The Epsilon Pi Tau [Warner Awards](#) deadline is January 15, 2021. Members can receive $500.
- EPT Web Security & the Dark Web Presentation by Dan Konzen, University of Phoenix will be held December 19th at 9:00pm EST.
- The [MET2 Program](#) student application deadline is December 11, 2020. Eric Flynn noted that the project will integrate augmented reality and virtual reality.

Attendee Updates
- Eric Flynn noted that he started a pathway in 2018 with Hamden High School. There are now 60 students in the pathway and it is still growing.
- Mathew Spinelli noted that for the spring semester the Energy Management program will be up and running again with a scholarship opportunity through DEEP. The program would be free with the scholarship. Tunxis Community College is also looking for anyone interested in a partnership with Hartford Public High School's Engineering & Green Technology Pathway. They are looking for an instructor to teach a robotics-based course for the spring term. This would be an LRON format.

TXCC Cybersecurity – Jorge Gonzales, Assistant Professor of CIS/Cybersecurity, Tunxis Community College
- Tunxis CC is creating a cybersecurity program. Two new courses have been approved. One course will be offered in the spring. The full program should be running in Fall 2021. Tunxis CC wants to make sure the program is aligned with what the other community colleges offer. Programs at four-year universities are being considered for transfer.

Upcoming COT Site Coordinators Meetings
(all meetings will be held virtually from 9:00am – 12:00pm EST unless otherwise noted)
- January 29, 2021
- February 12, 2021
- March 12, 2021
- April 9, 2021
- May 14, 2021