



## College of Technology – Site Coordinators Meeting

Date: Friday, February 19, 2021

Time: 9:00AM

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  
Eric Flynn, Department Chair – Engineering & Applied Technologies, Gateway CC  
Mary Bidwell, Dean of Advanced Manufacturing, Asnuntuck & Tunxis Community Colleges  
Rich DuPont, Director of Community & Campus Relations, AMTC, Housatonic CC  
Stella Litwinowicz, Assistant Professor, Housatonic 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  
Tracy Ariel, Director, Manufacturing, Manchester & Middlesex Community Colleges  
Michael Gentry, Program Coordinator, Three Rivers CC  
Aaron Dahlen, Associate Professor, Three Rivers CC  
Andre Freeman, Professor, Capital CC  
Joe DeFeo, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Naugatuck Valley CC  
Deirdre D'Amore, STEM Recruitment & Retention, Naugatuck Valley CC  
Mathew Spinelli, STEAM Director, Tunxis CC  
Ashoka Rahman, Program Coordinator, Tunxis CC  
Jorge Gonzalez, Assistant Professor, CIS/Cybersecurity, Tunxis Community College  
Mark Vesligaj, Professor, Three Rivers CC  
Steve Moore, Professor, Manchester Community College  
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  
Jordan Domkowski, Academic Advisor, STEAM & Advanced Manufacturing, Tunxis Community College  
Paul Resetarits, Professor, Manufacturing & Construction Management, Central CT State University  
Ju Kim, Dean, School of Engineering, Science, and Technology, Central CT State University  
Shuju Wu, Professor & Department Chair, Computer Electronics & Graphics Technology, Central CT State University  
Sango Park, Associate Professor, Computer Electronics & Graphics Technology, Central CT State University  
Lesley Mara, Director of Strategic Partnerships, CT State Colleges & Universities

#### 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  
Stephanie Gillespie, Associate Dean, Tagliatela College of Engineering, University of New Haven  
Laurie Granstrand, Manager of Graduate Programs, Undergraduate Transfer Evaluations, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, University of Hartford  
David Pines, Associate Dean for Student Support, College of Engineering, Technology and Architecture, University of Hartford  
Hisham Alnajjar, Dean, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, University of Hartford

#### High Schools

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

#### Other

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  
Steve Barkanic, Senior Vice President & Chief Program Officer, Business-Higher Education Forum

## MINUTES

**Welcome Remarks** - Dr. Karen Wosczyzna- Birch, Executive Director, College of Technology-Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (COT-RCNGM) & Dr. Hisham Alnajjar, Dean, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA), University of Hartford

### **University of Hartford College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture Updates**

- Dr. Hisham Alnajjar, Dean, CETA, University of Hartford & Dr. David Pines, Associate Dean for Student Support, CETA, University of Hartford – Thirty percent of classes are online right now. There were only two lab courses that could not go online. CETA has small classes, usually about 20 students per course. There are very strong support systems in place for students. Laurie Granstrand is like a mother to the students. Mass are individual tutoring are available. Programs are hands-on with labs that are available to students, including the makerspace. The new academic building will open in Fall 2021 and will include a cybersecurity lab. Students are also encouraged to attend activities outside of academics such as conferences, clubs, and other activities. Industry partnerships and small classes allow for company visits and internship opportunities. The student body is diverse with 43% being from all walks of life. We have the only robotics program in CT and are one of four in the nation. A new aerospace engineering program has been approved by the board. There is funding available for community college transfers where tuition only comes out to a few thousand more than UConn and students have smaller class sizes. 99% of students accept jobs in their field.
- Dr. David Pines, Associate Dean for Student Support, CETA, University of Hartford – Currently writing a National Science Foundation S-STEM grant for \$650,000 over 5 years. The College of Technology is a partner on the proposal. This is in the interest of supporting students. It is scholarship based and focused on low-income and talented students. The strategy is to capitalize on the COT pathway and provide academic, career, and financial support; build on existing support services; and provide students with an affordable and competitive private university option. The focus will be on an array of support services to enhance graduation rates and career opportunities through academic support, career support, and financial support. It will be a research-based program led by a multi-faceted team. Support services will be provided based on data-driven best practices. The University of Hartford team will be made up of engineering technology faculty, practitioners with cross-disciplined experience, career services, financial aid, and student support services.
- Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College (NCCC) noted that NCCC is submitting an S-STEM proposal but cannot be on multiple submissions. David Pines responded that it will be the overall COT on the proposal.
- Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that curriculum alignment is being reviewed for the consolidation. We have met with Sharon and Laurie to address any questions University of Hartford had. It is very clear that University of Hartford wants students to complete their B.S. degrees two years after transferring.
- Eric Flynn of Gateway Community College noted that this was a very good presentation and University of Hartford is a great option for his students even though there are closer private universities.

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

- Tech Times Newsletter – Submit news items to Wendy Robicheau by next week to be included in next newsletter.
- NASA CT Space Grant Consortium – [Spring Call for Applications](#) – Due March 24<sup>th</sup>
- Epsilon Pi Tau board elections are happening now. The Gamma Phi Chapter is endorsing Donna Lange from Rochester Institute of Technology.

### **Digital Generalist Pathway with NEBHE/BHEF**

- Charlotte Peyser, Senior Policy and Research Analyst, New England Board of Higher Education – The survey has been built by Qualtrix to gather information about specific courses and materials that align to the KSAs. Looking to distribute the survey in the next few days so the information can be analyzed by the next COT Meeting.
- Steve Barkanic, Senior Vice President & Chief Program Officer, Business-Higher Education Forum – Marty Guay from Stanley Black & Decker will also be reaching out to see what the next steps are for industry.

### **COT Curriculum and Articulation Discussions**

- *Energy Management Program Replication Discussion* – Mathew Spinelli of Tunxis Community College discussed how the Energy Management Technology Studies Option and certificate in their current format under the College of Technology are fairly new at Tunxis Community College. A significant part of the program's funding comes from

DEEP and there are full scholarships available for the program. There are currently four scholarship recipients. The program is predominately focused on energy management in commercial and industrial sectors. Looking to expand the program to Asnuntuck Community College, Northwestern CT Community College, and Naugatuck Valley Community College in a collaboration where the general education courses will be taught at the individual colleges and the energy management courses will be taught through Tunxis Community College. Through this consortium, students will be able to remote into the courses at Tunxis Community College with the other colleges having the courses listed in their catalogs. Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College noted that students are asking about job security and salary. Mathew responded that this is preparation for the managerial side rather than the technician side. Starting salaries are \$40-\$60K a year. The current presidential administration is pushing for cleaner, greener jobs. Rich DuPont of Housatonic Community College asked if there is support from local industry at the degree and certificate levels. Mathew responded that a B.S. degree is preferred to climb the corporate ladder and there have been positive responses from current students and alumni.

- *Engineering Science Alignment* – Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College noted that the COT Curriculum Committee is still collecting feedback from everyone and will meet individually with the 4-year institutions. Everyone should review the EGR and CAD course sheets, especially the prerequisites.
  - *Course Alignment: Thermodynamics* – Matthew Enjalran of Southern CT State University noted that there are two types of thermodynamics. Mark Vesligaj of Three Rivers Community College responded that the original thermodynamics course was 3 credits then some colleges petitioned to add a credit so students could be better prepared to take Thermodynamics II at the universities, and it replaces Chemistry II in the community colleges. Jakob Spjut of Quinebaug Valley Community College noted that his college has the 4-credit version, but some students still take the 3-credit version at Manchester Community College, so both are still in use.
  - *Course Alignment: Data Science* – Sharon Gusky noted the DTS 201 course title would become “Programming in Data Science.” In the Data Science Option, the number of electives would change and a capstone course would be required. This is based on feedback from Central CT State University who is creating a data science B.S. degree. Andre Freeman of Capitol Community College asked if the capstone course will be transferrable. Crystal Wiggins of Northwestern CT Community College replied it is a course the 4-year universities could offer, so they want to accept it and articulation agreements are in process.
  - *Other* – A waiver is being drafted for the required CCS 101 because 4-year universities will not accept it as part of their programs. Central CT State University suggested adding “Presentations” to the Technical Writing course. Anthropology was added as a suggested elective because it is behavioral science, but psychology or sociology could also be taken.
- *Technology Studies Program and Options Alignment*
  - *Programming Courses* – Should CSC 124 Programming Logic & Design with Python or just CSC 105 Programming Logic be included in the curriculum? Dan Burkey of University of CT noted their CSE 1010 uses Python. Hisham Alnajjar of University of Hartford suggested not putting a specific language. Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College noted these are under Technology Studies so they only transfer to Central CT State University and sometimes University of Hartford.
  - Sharon Gusky noted that Mary Bidwell of Asnuntuck & Tunxis Community Colleges is handling the manufacturing certificates but that if there are any missing from the forms, please let Sharon know.
- Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that the organization chart for the consolidation is under human resources right now but it drives the shared governance for the consolidation. The organizational chart is also siloed to academics with no collaboration with continuing education at this time. They are still trying to figure out where the College of Technology programs and engineering technology programs will fit. Mary Bidwell of Asnuntuck & Tunxis Community College noted that a lot of programs do work with Business & Industry Departments and we want to make sure we show that and have support to continue and expand.
- Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that we would prefer to do all program alignment approvals as one bundle at the March COT Meeting. Sharon Gusky added that the Board of Regents would like these ready for May.
- Stella Litwinowicz of Housatonic Community College asked how we explain job options for the terminal Technology Studies A.S. degree. Sharon Gusky replied that the A.S. degree would lead to technician jobs. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch replied that it is not really a terminal degree and it is part of the stackable credential model. Eric Flynn of Gateway Community College noted that the jobs are different between the Engineering Science and Technology Studies programs and with Engineering Science students will have to go onto the B.S. degree.

- Mary Bidwell reminded everyone to sign up for the Governor's Workforce Council committees so the College of Technology is represented. Let her know what committee you have signed up for.
- Mark Vesligaj of Three Rivers Community College asked if we can handle 3 or 4 credit courses under the alignment. Sharon Gusky replied that this will be worked on with the curriculum committee.
- Lin Lin of Middlesex Community College asked of the College of Technology send anything regarding the shared governance structure. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch replied that the COT now participates in the shared governance committee meetings. She and Mary Bidwell will also be meeting with Michael Rooke and James Lombella in March to discuss what it will look like. Tracy Ariel of Manchester and Middlesex Community Colleges noted that the proposed organizational chart was intended to be general.

#### **Attendee Updates**

- Sharon Gusky plugged the National Science Foundation (NSF) Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grants since this may be the last time to apply before the consolidation.
- Karen Wosczyzna-Birch is involved in a grant called Mentor Up that helps you apply for NSF ATE grants. There will be a workshop this summer and you will be assigned a mentor through the program.

#### Upcoming COT Site Coordinators Meetings

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

- March 12, 2021
- April 9, 2021
- May 14, 2021