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College of Technology – Site Coordinators Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023 Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Attendees

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
Sue Spencer, Program Coordinator, Gateway CC
Charles Paulsen, Adjunct Faculty, Gateway Community College; Instructor, MET2 Program
Stella Litwinowicz, Professor, Housatonic CC
Lin Lin, Program Coordinator, Middlesex CC
Keith Carter, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center Director, Middlesex CC
John Jagiani, Faculty, Program Coordinator, Northwestern CT CC
Crystal Wiggins, STEM DC, Northwestern CT CC
Steve LaPointe, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Quinebaug Valley CC
Deirdre D'Amore, Guided Pathways Advisor, Naugatuck Valley CC
Narendra Sharma, Professor and Coordinator, Naugatuck Valley CC
Sharon Lutkus, Interim Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Naugatuck Valley CC
Mathew Spinelli, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Manchester CC
Jim Doran, Interim Engineering Program Coordinator, Three Rivers 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
H. Jemiel Rose, Project Director, NAMAP, CT State Colleges & Universities
Lesley Mara, AVP, Systemwide Initiatives and Sponsored Programs, CT State Colleges & Universities
H. Justin Moore, Dean, School of Engineering & Technology, CT State Community College
Rich DuPont, Interim Associate Dean – Advanced Manufacturing Centers, Northwest Region

Other College & Universities

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

Other

Eileen Candels, Director of Partnerships, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.

Minutes

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

- Met with Justin Moore, Dean of Engineering & Technology for CT State. With the new shared governance meetings, we thought it was in everybody's best interest to try to move the COT Meetings and Thursdays seem to be a time we thought most people could attend. We might be able to do some on Friday.

Attendee Introductions – [See attendance list]

Advanced Manufacturing Updates - Rich DuPont, Interim Dean, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centers, Northwest Region

- The demand has never been higher for the skill sets that manufacturers are looking for and our challenge is getting enough people in seats.
- Naugatuck Valley and Northwestern CT Community Colleges are really shifting focus, not away from our traditional pathways, but looking more at the opportunities we have to serve the community by way of incumbent worker training, leveraging funding through our partnerships, and alignment to the regional sector partnerships.
- When Mary Bidwell gets back from vacation, we will be scheduling another meeting for all the manufacturing directors.
- Dr. Jim Lombella is touring Housatonic Community College today and the Workforce Officers are there so we can compare, share, and collaborate accordingly.
- Mathew Spinelli of Manchester Community College asked if there were any efforts from a systemwide stance on marketing for manufacturing programs that steer people to their most local community college. Rich responded that coming from the Chief Manufacturing Officer, Paul Lavoie, and the Office of Workforce Strategies under Kellie Vallieres, the focus is on the Hearts and Minds Campaign for manufacturing. There are billboards, advertising, and social media to get the word out on how many opportunities that there are for not only manufacturing, but for employment. We are also waiting for what should come out of CareerConneCT and driving people to the portal.
- The American Manufacturing Hall of Fame event is scheduled for April 13th at Jackson Labs in Farmington. The event and the press that we get out of that will put a spotlight on our manufacturing programs at the community colleges.

Report Out of COT and NCNGM Upcoming Initiatives, Activities, and Important Dates - Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch

- There are upcoming meetings with Rai Kathuria, Amy Feest and Justin Moore to discuss the infrastructure of the COT within CT State Community College and the CT State Colleges and Universities system. The COT model is what was leveraged for National Science Foundation funding and includes partners outside of our system.
- The [CareerConneCT portal](#) has come out under the Office of Workforce Strategies. It is a one-stop portal so individuals will come here to understand what is out there for careers and where to go for training and credentials. If you have suggestions that you think could improve the site let Karen or Wendy Robicheau know and they will pass them along. This is just this is across the board, so it's manufacturing, healthcare, IT, transportation, infrastructure, construction, green jobs, life sciences, and business services.
- The CHIPS and Science Act was passed in response to the shortage of semiconductors in the United States to incentivize domestic semiconductor production, including research and development and it is potentially going to be allocating over 52 dollars across the United States. Another 200 billion dollars has been authorized to support science, technology, innovation, and STEM. The National Science Foundation (NSF) is already creating new divisions within its infrastructure to address this. There will be a big workforce piece, and we will be critical players in the workforce component. Karen has had conversations with NSF and they are recommending our national center as a contact point for people looking at engaging the

manufacturing community colleges. We have been pulled into a couple of conversations and one is a grant that was submitted through the system office with our provost that UMass submitted that is going to be supporting some of the semiconductor research. Our NSF program officer when they start asking you to get involved, make sure there is money on the table for the community colleges in these proposals.

- The AARP-CT scholarship is still available. The criteria is that the student has to be age 50+, in one of our community college advanced manufacturing programs, and have to be willing to share their story publicly. The money is held at the Tunxis Foundation so contact Wendy Robicheau if you have an eligible student and she will work between the two foundations to get the scholarship awarded. Each scholarship is for \$1250.
- The Xometry scholarship had a successful first semester. There were 13 students from our community colleges who were eligible and are currently being confirmed as recipients. More colleges are coming on board and expressed interest in utilizing those scholarships for the spring semester as well. Marisa Rubera at Capital Community College is the contact for that scholarship.
- Karen reiterated that it is important to encourage students to apply for these scholarships and it usually takes a one-on-one conversation.
- We also have the partnership with AARP-CT for working to find adjunct instructors from the pool of retired manufacturers in CT. We have held workshops for this in the past. We have been presenting this partnership as a model at conferences nationally.
- Our National Center works to disseminate best practices and we have partners from across the United States, but we are doing great things in Connecticut and many of them are supported in one way or another from our NSF grants. If there some activity or best practices you are doing and you have pictures, send them along to us. We can also look into putting in a paper or presentation at a conference. We do have funding, as a supplement to professional development funds, that can help support going to conferences and disseminating information relevant to the College of Technology.
- Wendy is in the process of putting together a newsletter so send us information. Dr. Lombella was also looking into a newsletter focusing on workforce development. Sometimes NSF reaches out to ask what we have going on and we provide updates that are sometimes even shared with Congress, so it is important to know what everyone is doing as it helps to justify the NSF funding.
- [The Journal of Advanced Technological Education](#) is a peer-reviewed journal specifically for community colleges and Karen is on the editorial board. John Jagiani of Northwestern CT Community College asked if students could submit to the journal because he has two students who are working on papers. Karen said students can submit.
- Central CT State University is hosting a free event with Fanuc on February 21st. The flyer was previously sent out. The event is going to be about aligning skills between industry and academia. There will be a tour in the afternoon. This will also be a good networking opportunity. Paul Lavoie, our Chief Manufacturing Officer, will be there as well as representatives from Fanuc, Rockwell Automation, Okay Industries, CBIA, and our system.
- The Community College Innovation Challenge is open again. This is an initiative that the American Association of Community Colleges hosts in partnership with the National Science

Foundation. You have until the end of March, but it is not a simple submission. They ask for a video also. Karen has judged and reviewed these submissions. Teams are picked and they pay for them to come to D.C. where they are coached and have a competition. The bootcamp is June 12th through the 15th. If your team is chosen the students faculty advisor are required to attend that bootcamp in person. Each team must have 2 to 4 student members, and a faculty administrator at the college who will be a team a mentor team, and you cannot have members from multiple institutions.

- The DeafTEC Resource Center “Diversity Includes Disabilities” Professional Development Workshop will be held July 17-21 at the Equity & Excellence: Access in Higher Education Conference in Portland, Oregon. DeafTEC is covering the cost. The criteria is that the team needs to have STEM faculty as well as either a STEM faculty member or staff that is specifically assigned to disability services. DeafTEC is a National Science Foundation center. It is a resource center, and they do a lot of work with providing resources for hard of hearing students. If you have any questions reach out to Karen or Wendy.
- The High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (HI TEC) is a conference that is all about community colleges. It was created specifically to have a platform where community college educators could get together and learn from each other through presentations and workshops. There is an industry component with people from industry either being keynotes or being involved in some of the breakout groups. Last year, we did a pre-conference workshop on mechatronics. Our national center is an executive producer, meaning we will be able to do a pre-conference workshop. We're also have what is called a special interest group (SIG). As part of our executive sponsorship, we get 28 registrations. This year the conference will be in Atlanta.
- John Jagiani of Northwestern CT Community College asked if there was an update on AI or Intel's AI program integration at the community colleges because Intel has contacted him for an update. Karen responded that we would have to reach out to Andre Freeman of Capital Community College for an update and that we will get a meeting set up for those faculty interested in AI and the Intel program. The CEO of Manchester Community College is interested in setting up an AI lab.
- Mathew Spinelli of Manchester Community College noted that they will be having a Manufacturing Job Fair on Friday, March 3rd from 8:00am – 1:00pm. They are looking for more manufacturers. Everyone is invited to attend.
- Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that she received an email from the coordinator UConn and they are having a 10 week program that is funded through a National Science Foundation grant they have, which are like research grants. It is a summer program focused on clean energy. They provide room and board and a \$6,000 stipend and there is a lot of activities and connections with industry.
- The Epsilon Pi Tau induction will be one April 28th at Manchester Community College. We will be looking for faculty and honorary inductees as well.

CT State School of Engineering & Technology Updates & Discussions – Dr. H. Justin Moore, Academic Dean – School of Engineering & Technology, CT State Community College

- There are some catalog issues that need input from the faculty. Tomorrow is our first meeting for the Statewide Discipline Councils for CT State and they will be charged with looking at these

issues as well. There are quite a few issues with mathematics across the board. Engineering Technology programs are generally algebra-based and not so much calculus based. That does not mean students cannot take calculus courses and apply those credits to this degree. The current catalog has a lot of engineering science courses built into this program, including engineering statics. The concern is students thinking that they have to take engineering and science courses to get through a Technology Studies program. Share any feedback with Justin Moore. Mehrdad Faezi commented that the engineering statics and dynamics, are both calc-based so it does not make sense not to require Calc I or even to go through that program. Justin commented that any catalog changes need to be made before the end of March and do not have to go through curriculum committees.

- A second issue is that CSC and CST were split into four groups that include the same courses. Please review your programs under electives and make sure this is reflected in the catalog. If not, let Justin know.
- You can find the catalog at ctstate.edu then scroll down to the catalog link. This review is important because the programs are being programmed into Degreeworks now.
- Course sequencing also needs to be submitted. This needs to be general sequencing for across the system to put in Degreeworks. If you have one, send it to Justin otherwise he will send one out for feedback. Mehrdad Faezi of Manchester Community College noted that Central CT State University has a good course sequence chart as an example.
- For the Statewide Discipline Council Meeting tomorrow, the group will start together as one and then break off into the specific councils. Chairs for each Council will have to be identified. Agenda items will include discussing proxy voting. There will eventually be a public Teams folder for all faculty to see curriculum proposals and provide feedback prior to the governance process.
- Met with leadership for the CT Technical Education & Career System and they would like to set up a blanket agreement so their students can matriculate to CT State. There are individual agreements in place right now, but the new one will be for all of CT State. They have recently made their math and English courses more rigorous. They will create a list of programs and courses and we can see where they would fit in our programs. They have 2500 students graduating this spring. We probably get about 10% of those students, if we could get up to 20% of those students, that would really help a lot of our programs right now. Also, they have Perkins grants and we have Perkins grants so we could split the difference to bus students to our campuses.
- Mathew Spinelli of Manchester Community College asked if there is any insight as to what is going to be the new operation of Perkins and articulations such as college career pathways, which is tied to Perkins. Justin responded that he and Jimmy Adams, Dean of the School of Business for CT State are going to work on Perkins. Meetings are going to start in late March to discuss this with the CT Department of Education. Discussions will include how money is distributed to and throughout CT State. There is also a task force to determine how to move forward with high school articulations going forward, so hold on regarding that for the moment.
- Matthew Enjalran of Southern CT State University asked if all course codes will be changing to 4 letters. Justin responded that some will be 4 letters and some will be 3 letters.

Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) Updated – Eileen Candels, Director of Partnerships, CCAT

- CCAT has two upcoming job fairs. The first one will be on Friday, March 17th from 9:00am to 1:00pm. It is [a job fair focused on North Central Connecticut area](#). There will be about 25 manufacturers tabling there. Our target audience is community college students who are in manufacturing programs. We are also inviting tech schools and area comprehensive high schools students that have interest or have been in a manufacturing focused program as well as a number of students that recently applied through a pipeline that we did for a class of students for Pratt and Whitney. We ask job applicants or students who are seeking to come to the event to register through the link that will be sent out.
- Through Manufacturing Innovation Fund (MIF) funding, we will also be returning again this year to Quinnipiac University for [a statewide job fair](#). This is for students from around the state and John Bau from Quinnipiac will be doing some outreach in about 2 weeks to the different colleges. He will coordinate bussing if you have a large enough population of students that want to sign up. That job fair is April 4th from 3:00pm – 6:00pm. It's called the Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology Job Fair and it is more focused on someone who's already in college.
- CCAT is leading and supporting an engineering [internship program](#) for Paul Lavoie and the Manufacturing Innovation Fund. Students do not need to be pursuing an engineering degree to be part of this program. They need to be wanting to work in a manufacturing company. It will have an orientation that will probably be in Central Connecticut. We expect to have over 125 interns this year. Students have to be matched with manufacturing employers here in Connecticut. Our audience is the small and medium size manufacturers. There is a wage subsidy for an employer with under 300 employees for only up to 2 engineering students and that has to be in a 4-year program. Students can apply through the website. Those resumes will be available to any employer who signs up to have us showcase their positions. The matching is not done by CCAT, it is completely up to the decision of the employer.

Modular Apprenticeship Model, H. Jemiel Rose, Project Director, National Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Project (NAMAP), Connecticut State College & Universities System

- The [National Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Project](#) is an \$8 million U.S. Department of Labor grant awarded to the system office. One of the big parts of our grant is scaling apprenticeships and there is a way for us to kind of utilize apprenticeships in our community college system that we are not doing right now.
- A lot of the community colleges work individually with different employers and they have apprenticeship programs that they go through with more traditional models, which may take 3 or 4 years. You can have short-term programs that are a year long. by stacking multiple programs in the same occupation.
- We can tap into this and build a model for ourselves in our community college system that can

essentially market our program to employers by having a modular apprenticeship system. CT State Community College would be the sponsor for apprenticeships. One example would be to use machining, which we already offer and companies need. We can have modules for each occupation and these modules would align with the industry sectors in your part of the state such as in maritime trades, aerospace module, and plastics.

- The benefit to us is that we would have a program that we could solicit to our employer partners. We already have the relationships, and we would be enrolling students in a cohort for multiple employers. We could have people from multiple employers in one cohort. We can bring a diversity lens and an equitable lens into the recruitment side and help employers recruit more diverse students. The employers get the benefit of not having to do the administrative side.
- Justin Moore of CT State Community College noted that this should be brought to the Workforce Development Officers too.

Upcoming COT Meetings

March 2, 2023, 3:00pm-5:00pm, Virtual

April 20, 2023, 3:00pm-5:00pm, Virtual

May 17, 2023, 9:00am – 12:00pm, Tunxis Community College

Important Dates

February 21st – [FANUC Event](#), Central CT State University

March 30th – [Community College Innovation Challenge](#) Deadline

April 12th- 15th – [ITEEA Conference](#), Minneapolis, MN

April 28th – [Epsilon Pi Tau](#) Gamma Phi Chapter Induction Ceremony – Held at Manchester Community College

July 17th – 21st – [Diversity Includes Disabilities Professional Development](#), Portland, OR

July 24th – 27th – [High Impact Technology Exchange Conference \(HI TEC\)](#), Atlanta, GA