

College of Technology – Site Coordinators Meeting

Date: Friday, February 23, 2024 Time: 9:00 AM

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, CT State - Gateway
Jakob Spjut, Professor, CT State - Quinebaug Valley
Sharon Gusky, Professor, CT State - Northwestern
Stella Litwinowicz, Professor, CT State - Housatonic
Adam Scobie, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, CT State – Housatonic
Sharon Lutkus, Interim Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, CT State - Naugatuck Valley
Andre Freeman, Professor, CT State - Capital
Lin Lin, Program Coordinator, CT State - Middlesex
Steve LaPointe, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, CT State - Quinebaug Valley
Charles Paulsen, Professor, CT State Gateway
Eric Flynn, Program Coordinator, CT State – Gateway
John Jagtiani, Professor, CT State - Northwestern
Mehrdad Faezi, Professor, CT State – Manchester
Richard Gnall, Professor, CT State - Manchester
Mobin Rastgar Agah, Professor, CT State – Norwalk
Deidre D’Amore, Guided Pathways Advisor, CT State – Naugatuck Valley
Mary Bidwell, Dean of Advanced Manufacturing, CT State - Asnuntuck & Tunxis
Mathew Spinelli, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, CT State - Manchester
Keith Carter, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, CT State - Middlesex
Kristen Dagan, Department Chair, Engineering & Technology, CT State – Naugatuck Valley
Matthew Enjalran, Professor & Chair, Physics, Southern CT State University
Ravindra Thamma, Associate Dean and Professor, Central CT State University
Justine Gamache, Transfer Advisor, Central CT State University

Other College & Universities

Laurie Granstrand, Manager of Graduate Programs, Undergraduate Transfer Evaluations, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, University of Hartford
Stephanie Gillespie, Associate Dean, Tagliatela College of Engineering, University of New Haven

Other

Eileen Candels, Director of Partnerships, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.
Tracy Ariel, Director of Workforce Programs, Office of Workforce Strategies, State of CT

MINUTES

- **Welcome Remarks - Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch, Executive Director, College of Technology & Executive Director & PI, National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing**
- **Attendee Introductions – All Attendees**
- **Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) Manufacturing Internship Program – Eileen Candels, Director of Partnerships, CCAT**
 - CCAT with help from the State of CT with the Manufacturing Innovation Fund (MIF) and administering programs to help students enter the manufacturing workforce. One program is the Manufacturing Internship Program. It has expanded from last year and recognizes that manufacturing needs engineers and also people with other backgrounds such as computer science, math, business, HR, finance, etc. Now organizations can receive up to four matching wage subsidies for people who are non-STEM or STEM major students. Everyone can help by sharing information with students that will be forwarded to you. All

program details can be found at: www.ccat.us/interns. Action items are for students to submit their resumes, visit the listed postings from companies, and pursue work on their own. There is an orientation event on June 5th at Trumpf in Farmington. Eileen is the main contact for the program. For the wage subsidy, students have to be a rising sophomore, rising junior, or rising senior. Freshmen can participate in the activities of the program.

- On April 11th from 3:00-6:00pm is the Statewide Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology Career Fair at Quinnipiac University (QU). John Bau from QU is coordinating free busses for CT State students. You must contact him to arrange for a bus for your students. Last year there were 100 employees and over 400 students. Companies will have internship and employment opportunities.
- Mehrdad Faezi of CT State Manchester asked if there has been feedback from employers regarding if they are looking for certificate, AS degree, or BS degree graduates. Eileen answered that the MIF Board noted it was imperative to expand the internship program to two-year programs. CT State students are more likely to stay in the state for employment.

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

- Quantum Grant & Activities
 - The Quantum initiative is ultimately going to be a proposal to the National Science Foundation for \$165M for one of their Engine grants. This grant will be over ten years. UConn and Yale University are the leads on the \$1M planning grant that was already awarded. UConn and Yale have had their own orientation sessions and CT State Colleges & Universities (CSCU) will have one as well in March. Southern CT State University is hosting an Open House the CSCU Center for Nanotechnology on March 1st. The College of Technology is a partner in the creation of that Center. This is officially a CSCU Center of Excellence.
- AARP Manufacturing Scholarships – Contact Wendy Robicheau - wrobicheau@txcc.commnet.edu
 - Requirements – Eligible students must enrolled in community college advanced manufacturing program, be age 50+, and be willing to share success story with COT, NCNGM, and AARP. Contact Wendy if you have an eligible student. She will facilitate the scholarship award with your local foundation and the Tunxis Foundation, where the funds are held.
- Xometry Scholarships – Contact Marisa Rubera - mrubera@ccc.commnet.edu
 - These are for students in CT State advanced manufacturing programs. Marisa facilitates these awards. CCAT brought this to the attention of COT who then facilitated the establishment of the scholarship fund through Capital Community College's Foundation. Contact Marisa if you want like more information.
- Share newsletter stories with Wendy Robicheau – wrobicheau@txcc.commnet.edu
 - Send Wendy any faculty and student success stories, past and upcoming activities, and photos to be shared statewide and nationally.
 - Also send any activities that you want shared outside of the newsletter as well through email and social media.
- [Journal of Advanced Technological Education](#)
 - John Jagtiani of CT State Northwestern submitted an article and Karen confirmed that it was received.
 - This journal is focused on two-year education in STEM disciplines. It is a great opportunity for dissemination of your work. Submissions can be short or very detailed articles or pedagogy. This is a peer reviewed journal so it is good for professional files. The journal was started through a National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education (NSF ATE) national center and is distributed at the NSF ATE PI Conference and HI TEC. It is available digitally also. Sharon Gusky of CT State Northwestern is also involved with the journal so you can reach out to her too for advice on submissions. She encourages everyone to submit to spread the word on what we are doing in CT State. The next submission deadline is May 31st, 2024.
- Upcoming Events & Conferences:
 - The NCNGM can help with travel funds. You must request funds through your union/institution first and NCNGM can help with what is not covered. Reach out to Karen and Wendy for more information.

- [ITEEA](#) – March 6-9, 2024, Memphis – Focused on technical education and Epsilon Pi Tau Honor Society is the honor society for ITEEA and has a real presence at the conference and Karen will be attending.
- [Innovations](#) – March 17-20, 2024, Anaheim, CA
- Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology Internship Career Fair - 4/11/24 – Quinnipiac University, in partnership with CCAT
- [CyAd Conference: Cybersecurity Across Disciplines](#) – June 12-13, 2024 – Palo Hills, IL – This conference addresses who cybersecurity is involved in various technical programs.
- [ASEE Conference](#) – June 23-26, 2024, Portland, OR – We will have poster sessions there.
- [HI-TEC](#), July 29-August 1, 2024, Kansas City, MO – We have supported many from CT to attend. This is the major conference for technician education and community colleges. We will be doing preconference workshops, presentations, and a booth. The NCNGM is a sponsor and receives registrations. Reach out to Karen and Wendy if you are interested in attending. If you have never attended, there is a fellowship program for first-time attendees. We can cover workshop expenses as well. If accepted, registration and two nights of lodging for the main conference is covered. Contact Wendy for more information on the fellowship program.
- Epsilon Pi Tau Gamma Phi Chapter Induction Ceremony – April 26th – CT State Manchester, Manchester, CT. Wendy will be sending application information shortly. We will need to start earlier this year due to hours of CT State Manchester. EPT as changed to electronic applications.
- Tracy Ariel of the CT Office of Workforce Strategies noted that an invitation was sent to industry through the Regional Sector Partnerships for the CT State Business Roundtable hosted by CT State Asnuntuck on February 28 at 9:00am. RVSP is required by February 26th.
- Eric Flynn of CT State Gateway noted that he submitted a poster on the MET² Program to the Teaching Professionals Conference, which will be held in New Orleans in June. He also noted that he would be interested in submitting an article to the Journal of Advanced Manufacturing Education on the program.

- **College of Technology Curriculum Discussions**

- Technology Studies: Optics Option and Credit/Non-Credit Certificates – CT State Norwalk
 - Mobin Rastgar Agah of CT State Norwalk provided a brief overview of the need for the program and that the paperwork will be provided shortly for COT review. These programs were initially developed for ASML but they are also appropriate for students who ending up working at companies that need similar skill sets in optics. Fahad Usman is really the one doing the work to develop these programs. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch asked if they has looked into the program at Springfield Technical College in MA has done. Mobin noted that they looked into that program and one at Monroe Community College in New York and used them as models when developing the curriculum. They are also working with AmeriCOM, which is funded by the Department of Defense to get these optics programs at different locations. Monroe Community College's program was developed with AmeriCOM. CT State Norwalk will be applying for funding through AmeriCOM also. Karen noted she was on an advisory board for an optics program and enrollment can be challenging so having it be interdisciplinary and not narrowly focused is important. Linking back to the local high schools is important too. Karen can share more information offline. There had also been an optics program at Three Rivers Community College that was eliminated when Judy Donnelly retired. It is great that there is a new faculty member to champion the program. Richard Gnall of CT State Manchester asked what type of optics program this is and how many employers in CT will hire students with some sort of optics training? Mobin responded that he was not sure which type of optics is in the program and there are about twelve companies al over CT that have a need for optical technicians. Richard Gnall asked if they are building labs. Mobin responded that proposals for equipment have been submitted and lab space has been designated. Mobin added that the goal is to have the non-credit program running by fall 2024. Karen suggested contacting Trumpf in Farmington as well. Mehrdad Faezi of CT

State Manchester noted that several of his Engineering Technology graduates have been hired by Trumpf. Richard added that some companies have said they like the community college students to get the general skills needed and then provide them with specialized training at the company. Matthew Enjalran from Southern CT State University (SCSU) noted that Fahad Usman had visited SCSU and he supports their program. Mathew Spinelli of CT State Manchester has also been researching some of the previously mentioned programs and also supports the proposed programs. Jakob Spjut also noted that technology programs can be COT or non-COT but would encourage them to be submitted as COT programs since there are already transfer pathways established. Sharon Gusky of CT State Northwestern noted that this would also be perfect for an NSF ATE grant. Karen noted that there is the Mentor Up program for those interested in submitting NSF ATE grants where you are mentored through the proposal development process and participate in a virtual workshop.

- ENG 1080 Composition II: Technical Writing and Presentations (formerly ENG 202) transfer to Central CT State University
 - Jakob Spjut of CT State Quinebaug Valley had a student who could not transfer ENG 1080 from CT State to fulfill the 200-level literature requirement at Central CT State University (CCSU). Justine Gamache of CCSU replied that this course does transfer as a Skill Area I Communication course under the general education requirements, but it had never fulfilled in the literature course in the past. The 200-level literature requirement is a different category. Sharon Gusky of CT State Northwestern noted that COT was asked to add presentations to ENG 1080 to meet the Technical Writing requirement for the Technology Management B.S. at CCSU and the ENG 102 has only gone in as communications rather than literature. Justine requested that we table this conversation because CCSU's Engineering Department is currently reviewing CT State courses to make sure everything is coming in as agreed. She will add this to this list of items that should be given a closer look. It sounds like ENG 1080 at CT State is trying to align with ENG 290 at CCSU.

Upcoming COT Meetings

Thursday, March 21, 2024 – 2:00-4:00pm – Virtual

Friday, April 26, 2024 – 9:00-11:00am – Virtual

May 29, 2024 – 9:00am – 12:00pm at CT State Tunxis – Farmington, CT