College of Technology – Site Coordinators Meeting

Date: Friday, March 12, 2021
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
Eric Flynn, Department Chair – Engineering & Applied Technologies, Gateway CC
Mary Bidwell, Dean of Advanced Manufacturing, Asnuntuck & Tunxis Community Colleges
Stella Litwinowicz, Assistant Professor, Housatonic CC
Adam Scobie, Instructor, Housatonic CC
Felisha G. Fleurimond, Recruitment/Retention Coordinator, 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
Andre Freeman, Professor, Capital CC
Joe DeFeo, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Naugatuck Valley CC
Deirdre D'Amore, STEM Recruitment & Retention, Naugatuck Valley CC
Ren Sharma, Professor and Coordinator, Naugatuck Valley CC
Pete Angelastro, Associate Professor, Naugatuck Valley CC
Christopher Tuccio, Professor, Naugatuck Valley CC
Mathew Spinelli, STEAM Director, Tunxis CC
Asheka Rahman, Program Coordinator, Tunxis CC
Mark Vesligaj, Professor, Three Rivers CC
Steve Moore, Professor, Manchester CC
Mehrdad Faezi, Professor, Manchester CC
Matthew Enjalran, Professor & Chair, Physics, Southern CT State University
Segun Odesina, Associate Dean, Central CT State University
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
Justine Gamache, Advising & Student Support Specialist, Central CT State University
David Ferreira, Dean of Academic & Student Affairs, Northwestern CT Community College
Teresa Foley, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, Asnuntuck Community College

Other College & Universities

Harvey Hoffman, Associate Dean, School of Engineering, Fairfield University
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 Alanjjar, 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
Stephanie Blochinger, Associate Program Director, Business-Higher Education Forum
Frank Avery, Director, Regional Programs, Business-Higher Education Forum

MINUTES

Welcome Remarks

- Dr. Karen Wosczyna- Birch, Executive Director, College of Technology-Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (COT-RCNGM) – Historically Central CT State University has hosted the March COT Meeting.
- Dr. Olusegun Odesina, Professor and Associate Dean, School of Engineering, Science, and Technology, Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) – Dean Ju Kim came in just before the shutdown last year.
- Dr. Ju Kim, Dean, School of Engineering, Science, and Technology, CCSU – Welcome to CCSU through this virtual hosting of the College of Technology Meeting. There are a lot of things going on on campus. Hopefully the new engineering building will be complete in July.

Overview of School of Engineering, Science, and Technology (SEST) Programs– Dr. Olusegun Odesina, Professor and Associate Dean, School of Engineering, Science, and Technology, CCSU

- Central CT State University is the largest university in the CT State Colleges & Universities system. It is the oldest publicly funded university in CT. (See attached presentation). An industrial engineering technology program is in the approval process.
- Stella Litwinowicz of Housatonic Community College asked which program transfers to the engineering technology programs. Dr. Odesina responded that the Technology Studies A.S. degree transfers to engineering technology. Dr. Litwinowicz asked what are some careers that students get from the engineering technology programs. Dr. Odesina responded that they become project managers, manufacturing engineers, production, same titles as engineers, but different responsibilities. The difference would be more of a design focus for engineers and more application for technicians. Jakob Spjut of Quinebaug Valley Community College noted that it might be helpful to have a list of careers that our pathways lead to on a website.

Transferring to CCSU's SEST - Ms. Justine Gamache, Advising and Student Support Specialist**,** School of Engineering, Science, and Technology, CCSU

- In about a week of receiving decisions from admissions, students receive an email to sign up for orientation. Degree evaluations are then completed. Students are met with individually to go over the transfer evaluation and what still needs to be completed. About 300 students transfer to SEST every fall and about 100 transfer in every spring. Be sure to ask students to apply very early and get all supporting documents in, watch for emails, and sign up for courses as soon as possible. There is a link on the SEST website to request advising, student do not have to wait for an invitation. Transfer advising is mandatory.

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

- Tech Times Newsletter – submit news items to Wendy Robicheau at wrobicheau@commnet.edu
- NASA CT Space Grant Consortium – Spring Call for Applications – Due March 24th
- Epsilon Pi Tau Virtual Induction – Friday, April 30th, 2021
    - Members are eligible to apply for Warner Awards. Applications are due each January for several categories and winners receive $500. Faculty who are not members already can apply for EPT membership.
- French Bootcamps - Virtual – The bootcamps will be virtual this year. Students are still encouraged to apply. A visit is still being planned for France once the pandemic is not an issue. Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College was able to go to Spain in January 202 through her grant. She is hoping to go to Spain and Germany once travel is allowed again.
- Microcredentials – State legislators and CT State Colleges & Universities' administrators have been asking if the COT is doing anything with microcredentials. The COT already has programs that can be considered microcredentials. They are looking to include credit and non-credit. President James Lombella suggested microcredentials for manufacturing and people from industry who want to teach at the community colleges. Let Karen Wosczyna-Birch know if you have any ideas for microcredentials. Mary Bidwell of Asnuntuck and Tunxis Community Colleges is looking into short-term programs that can be stacked and will look into funding that could be available and can be used for employer trainings too. Karen Wosczyna-Birch noted that the New England Board of Higher Education is also very interested in microcredentials and will reach out to faculty and directors.

- We are in the running to become the manufacturing center for the National Science Foundation and are in the process of scheduling a site visit in April.

Digital Generalist Pathway Survey – Charlotte Peyser, Senior Policy and Research Analyst, New England Board of Higher Education

- The survey for applicable courses has been distributed and is due by March 19th. The point is to prepare students and incumbent workers for the workforce. Frank Avery of the Business – Higher Education Forum noted that the team has been working on curriculum mapping. They are setting up a plan with industry partners, so curriculum is aligned to workforce needs. Stephanie Blochinger of the Business-Higher Education Forum noted that after curriculum mapping is done that appropriate pathways and gaps will be identified. This might be a great opportunity for microcredentials. Previous surveys determined institutions varied in offerings. Andre Freeman of Capital Community College was able to access the survey and asked if the focus for Data Science is on Data Science or math. Charlotte Peyser responded that that is up to your discretion of how it is applied to the KSAs but add more courses that may apply. Candace Williams of the New England Board of Higher Education noted that the survey also asks for pre-requisites so that is another way to cover general education courses.

VOTE: Energy Management Program Replication at NCCC and ACC – A.S. Degree Option and Certificate

- *Northwestern CT Community College and Asnuntuck Community College – VOTE: Technology Studies: Energy Management A.S. Degree option and Certificate – Program Replication* – Mat Spinelli of Tunxis Community College noted that this is a complete program replication for the Energy Management certificate and A.S. degree options. Motion to approve the replication of the Technology Studies: Energy Management A.S. Degree Option and Certificate at Asnuntuck Community College and Northwestern CT Community College by Jakob Spjut, Quinebaug Valley Community College; Motion seconded by Eric Flynn of Gateway Community College. Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College asked if the CAD course is an elective or prescribed. Mat Spinelli responded that CAD 133 is prescribed based on what Tunxis Community College uses but would be willing to do a course substitution for a different CAD course. David Ferreira of Northwestern CT Community College thanked everyone for offering this collaboration. Teresa Foley of Asnuntuck Community College noted that this is a great way to build STEM and employment opportunities at Asnuntuck Community College. Mat Spinelli noted that there are currently scholarships that will be extended to Asnuntuck and Northwestern Community College students that cover the full program. Lin Lin of Middlesex Community College asked of students have to travel for the program. Mat Spinelli responded that the NRG courses will be offered in HYFLEX format so students can take them online or on campus. Vote: The motion was unanimously approved with no objections or abstentions.

DISCUSSION: Engineering Science Alignment

- Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College and Chair of the COT Curriculum Committee noted that the COT Curriculum Committee met and came up with a proposal for the Engineering Science A.S. Degree alignment. Sharon, Karen Wosczyna-Birch and Wendy Robicheau met with the four-year university partners and will bring the proposal back to the full COT Site Coordinators Council in April for a vote.
- Suggested changes to the 2016 Engineering Science core curriculum are to require EGR 230 C++ and take out Dynamics. Central CT State University requires C++ while other colleges take any programming. Jakob Spjut of Quinebaug Valley Community College noted that universities will use different programming courses. Learning the principles of programming should translate into any other programming. Programming should not need to be based on one university's specific requirement. Segun Odesina of Central CT State University noted that their civil and mechanical engineering programs prefer MATLab and would have to discuss this with the department. Ren Sharma of Naugatuck Valley Community College noted that when purchasing software at the community colleges, having more of a choice would be helpful in considering budget. Mobin Rastgar Agah of Norwalk Community College noted that his college cannot offer C++ because of personnel, only Java or Programming for Engineers (MATLab) can be offered. Mehrdad Faezi of Manchester Community College noted that any programming course teaches the same basics and logical thought. Laurie Granstrand of University of Hartford noted that University of Hartford requires C++, but they can be flexible. Matthew Enjalran of Southern CT State University noted that Southern CT State University uses Python and EGR 230 could count as an

engineering elective. Andre Freeman of Capital Community College agreed with keeping programming flexible and addressing the overall outcomes. Harvey Hoffman of Fairfield University agreed with keeping programming flexible noting that electrical and machinal use Java or MATLab and Computer Science prefers Python. Thermodynamics is usually required for machinal engineering only and would prefer to see this as a directed discipline engineering course. Lin Lin of Middlesex Community College wants clarification that students will not lose credit or junior status. Ren Sharma of Naugatuck Valley Community College noted the EGR 201 uses MATLab and MATLab is an elective for mechanical. Eric Flynn of Gateway Community College noted that he is not sure if students are as concerned with junior level status as they used to be. Mark Vesligaj of Three Rivers Community College noted that the COT has worked because of a core general education, Intro to Engineering, and three engineering courses. Sharon Gusky noted that the four-year university partners should check on programming courses, see if there is something that fits across all disciplines other than thermodynamics, and check on other courses to fill elective credits. She also noted that statistics is a prerequisite to a lot of engineering programs. Peter Angelastro of Naugatuck Valley Community College note that students have used non-technical electives that would help them transfer. Sharon Gusky noted that the course alignment group for English will consider the request for Technical Writing and Presentations. The Engineering Science curriculum will be brought back up to 63-65 credits. We will work as a group to decide if thermodynamics is 3 or 4 credits. The math department will decide if differential equations is 3 or 4 credits. Matthew Enjalran noted that all the courses in the Engineering Science block of the core curriculum proposal would transfer to Southern CT State University and would like to see EGR 221 Electrical Circuits included in the curriculum.

Upcoming COT Site Coordinators Meetings

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

- April 9, 2021
- May 14, 2021