

College of Technology – Site Coordinators Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 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
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
Sharon Lutkus, Interim Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Naugatuck Valley CC
Mathew Spinelli, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Manchester 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. Justin Moore, Dean, School of Engineering & Technology, CT State Community College
Mary Bidwell, Dean of Advanced Manufacturing, Asnuntuck & Tunxis Community Colleges and Statewide Liasion, Advanced Manufacturing
Mobin Rastgar Agah, Professor, Norwalk CC
Renee Dunbar, Micro-credetnial Coordinator, Tunxis Community College

Other College & Universities

Laurie Granstrand, Manager of Graduate Programs, Undergraduate Transfer Evaluations, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, University of Hartford
Kylene Perras, Assistant Dean, Administrative Operations & Strategic Initiatives, School of Engineering, University of Connecticut

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**
- **Attendee Introductions**
- **Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) Updates - Eileen Candels, Director of Partnerships, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.**
 - Visit ccat.us/events for full event descriptions and registration
 - On Fridays at 10:00am we're hosting an advanced manufacturing training program intro session. These are very short and largely intended for high school students.
 - [3/17 Manufacturing Career Fair](#) – Currently 21 employers signed up from Center Connecticut and the Greater Hartford area from different manufacturing industries such as aerospace and medical devices. Companies are more on the small to medium size. Please share with colleges and school counselors and through social media. Employers have entry and higher level jobs, full-time or part-time, or internships or apprenticeships. Attendees do have to preregister.

- [4/4 MET Career Fair](#) – Funded by the Manufacturing Innovation Fund (MIF). Will be held at Quinnipiac University from 3:00-6:00pm. There are almost 100 statewide manufacturers expected who are seeking both internships and full-time and part-time employees. Open to community college students, students who are in 4- year college programs, recent graduates, parents with high school kids who are looking to understand the opportunities. It is free to the public. It is free to the employers. There can be free bus transportation. Contact John Bau at Quinnipiac for transportation questions.
- [4/5 Manufacturing Summit for Educators Webinar](#)- This is a 1-hour webinar that is mainly geared towards high school students, educators, administrators and counselors. We will hear from Tracy Ariel speaking on behalf of the Office of Workforce Strategies, Paul Lavoie who is the Connecticut Chief Manufacturing Officer, Shannon Marimon of ReadyCT, and from Dr. Sal Menzo who is now Superintendent at Goodwin University Magnet Schools and they will be talking about school and industry partnerships. The second part of the meeting will be breakout rooms with the manufacturing regional sector partners and the convening organizer as well as an industry representative from each of those regional sector partnerships talking about what is local and available to the K-12 school districts.
- [Summer Manufacturing Internships for College Students](#) - CCAT was contracted by the Manufacturing Innovation Fund to help organize a summer manufacturing internship program. We will help host events so that cohorts of students who are participating in internships across Connecticut could come together for some events to help create community. We are going to host tours of different manufacturing companies around Connecticut. We are also going to have a more formal kickoff day. You can visit the website and help students submit their resumes that will be shared with manufacturers. Small and medium manufacturers could be eligible for a wage subsidy, but right now that's only relevant for engineering internship positions and those have to be a rising sophomore, junior or senior in a 4-year program.
- **CT State School of Engineering & Technology Updates & Discussions – Dr. H. Justin Moore, Academic Dean – School of Engineering & Technology, CT State**
 - For the career fair at Quinnipiac University that Eileen from CCAT mentioned, contact Dean Moore is you would like to arrange for bus transportation. He has already reached out to the organizers for on behalf of our colleges. Please share this opportunity with your instructors and students.
 - We submitted accreditation applications from Middlesex, Naugatuck Valley, Manchester, and Housatonic on February 21st. Thanks to Keith Carter at Middlesex, Sharon Lutkus at Naugatuck Valley, Mathew Spinelli at Manchester, and Adam Scobie at Housatonic for their help. NIMS said it will take several weeks for them to review and return a response. If you have instructors that don't have those specific credentials, the testing for our instructors to be credentialed is free. Please send me their names and the certifications that each one needs so I can provide it to and then they can provide access to those tests and materials.
 - Some of you may have submitted catalog updates recently. There is a long queue for updates because only two people are processing them. If you have any more changes that you're suggesting, send them to Mike Stefanowicz and myself.
 - We are discussing a statewide blanket agreement with the Connecticut Technical High School System. I mentioned this last time that we're in discussions right now to create a blanket agreement. We are looking to have program coordinators reach out to their local tech high schools and start setting up course sequences where students can either earn credits through concurrent enrollment, dual enrollment, or even credit for prior learning. Please send any current agreements to Justin. If you do not have current agreements, think about a two-course sequences that you could offer. Two-course sequences could be funded via Perkins funds from the high school and Perkins funds from us. Consider an introductory course followed up by the next level course that would be appropriate at the high school level with college rigor. Their system has 2500 students every year that graduate and it would be great if we could increase the number of students that are matriculated into CT State. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted to look into giving credit for NIMS credentials while earned at the tech high schools as well.
 - Eric Flynn at Gateway Community College had shared with Justin that they will be holding an Engineering Day on March 30th for almost 200 students at local high schools to see what is offered for engineering technology programs.

- Justin has a meeting with Pratt & Whitney next week to discuss a partnership to create a talent pipeline for their materials and engineering department. They have 80 full time positions. They also want to offer an opportunity for internships.
- The Great Minds and STEM Scholarship is for high school students, community college students, or even graduate students in any 2-year or 4-year school in the U. S who are Hispanic. These are \$1,000 to \$5,000 scholarships. They even pay for a student to travel to the conference (hotel and registration) in Pasadena. Applications are due March 31st.
- The Lockheed Martin Vocational Scholarship Program is for community college students only. They have 150 scholarships at \$5,000 dollars. The deadline is March 31st.
- **Advanced Manufacturing Updates, Mary Bidwell, Interim Dean Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Asnuntuck and Tunxis Community Colleges & Statewide Liaison for Manufacturing Programs**
 - The directors were looking through the curriculum, making sure things are right in the catalog. The big thing is the supplemental hours that go along with the credit hours and making sure they're right in Banner because when we went through APRC, you only had to show the credit side of the course you didn't have to show the non-credit. Justin Moore and Mike Stefanowicz will be copied as these updates are sent in.
 - We are also asking what the structure will be for program fees for manufacturing programs. Mary has reached out to Kerry Kelly to ask those questions. Certain classes used to have a program fee of \$120 and we are not sure if that stayed or not.
 - A lot of companies are reaching out on making pathways and non-credit training. CareerConneCT has been big.
 - Mary asked Justin what the renewal fees are for NIMS for campuses that are already accredited. Justin replied that any campus that is already accredited can have instructors take the test to earn credentials for free. Sharon Lutkus asked if it is free for the evaluators to earn their credentials from evaluating students. Justin was not sure if it is free for evaluators. Mehrdad Faezi of Manchester Community College asked if a student fails a NIMS test does it cost to take it again? Justin was not sure and will ask.
- **COT and NCNGM Upcoming Initiatives, Activities, and Important Dates - Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch**
 - [CareerConneCT](#) portal is live and is for multiple disciplines, including manufacturing. Office of Workforce Strategies is leading this. Set up as a one-stop shop for career advisement and training.
 - Microcredentials are still being worked on, including the policies and procedures for them systemwide. If you have any you are interested in developing let us know. Renee Dunbar is the Micro-Credential Coordinator. She is also looking into a digital literacy assessment for the system.
 - CHIPs and Science Act - There's billions of dollars being appropriated to the semiconductor, nanotech, and micro science areas. The National Science Foundation is waiting to know what they will have for funding for programs and initiatives. We have been contacted by a few universities, including MIT to see about some possible collaboration.
 - AARP Manufacturing Scholarships – Contact Wendy Robicheau - wrobicheau@txcc.commnet.edu; The eligibility requirements are that the student has to be enrolled in a community college advanced manufacturing program, age 50+, and willing to share success story with COT, NCNGM, and AARP.
 - Xometry Scholarships – Capital Community College is taking the lead on this. CCAT is also a partner on this program. Contact Marisa Rubera - mrubera@ccc.commnet.edu
 - Share newsletter stories with Wendy Robicheau – wrobicheau@txcc.commnet.edu. The newsletter will be distributed statewide and nationally.
 - [Journal of Advanced Technological Education](#) – Submissions do not have to be long articles covering years of a project. Articles can bring an awareness to a subject. Karen is on the editorial board. The next issue will have an industry focus and we were able to get on from Stanley Black & Decker. John Jagtiani of Northwestern CT Community College asked when the next deadline is. Karen responded that she will find out. John has a student working on an article.

- **Conferences**
 - [ITEEA](#) - April 12th – 15th – Minneapolis, MN; the Epsilon Pi Tau International Honor Society holds its board meeting and an awards breakfast during the conference. If you would like to attend the conference, we can provide funding.
 - [HI TEC](#) – July 24th – 27th – Atlanta, GA - Last year we brought a group from Connecticut to this conference and they also participated in our Special Interest Group (SIG) and Pre-Conference Mechatronics Workshop. This year we will be doing a SIG again, a Pre-Conference Workshop for supply chain and quality assurance, and a booth. This conference is focused on technical education and community colleges. This is a great opportunity to connect with peers from across the country. We are able to cover registrations and travel costs beyond what professional development will cover.
 - [EASTEC](#) - May 16th -18th – West Springfield, MA – This conference is held every other year. They usually have an education day where you can bring a group of students to the expo and have them participate in competitions and attend presentations.
- [American Mfg Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony](#): April 13th – Jackson Labs; This will include breakfast and networking in addition to the ceremony. RBC Bearings, ASML, and Electric Boat are the companies being inducted and Doug Johnson from Marion Manufacturing is receiving a Leadership Award. A press release will be coming out. Senators Murphy and Blumenthal are invited. Registration is \$50. Money raised is for scholarships for our community college advanced manufacturing programs.
- [Community College Innovation Challenge](#) – Deadline: March 30th; This is sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges in partnership with the National Science Foundation. The application requires a video. Finalists go to Washington, DC for workshops and the final competition. There may already be projects that students are working on that would fit. Reach out to Karen if you are interested, she has been a judge for this.
- [DeafTEC Resource Center “Diversity Includes Disabilities” Professional Development](#) – July 17-21 at the Equity & Excellence: Access in Higher Education Conference in Portland, Oregon; DeafTEC is a Resource Center under the National Science Foundation. They are providing stipends for participants for up to 20 teams. Teams must include a STEM faculty member and a staff member from disability services on your campus.
- [Epsilon Pi Tau](#) Induction Ceremony – April 28th at 6:00pm at Manchester Community College, Application Deadline: April 6th; In addition to student applicants, we are also looking for faculty inductees and honorary nominees, which can include an administrator that has supported your programs and someone from industry, a politician, or a high school teacher. We average 100 students every year.
- We will be scheduling a meeting with Central CT State University to discuss curriculum and the transfer pathways.
- The May 16th COT Meeting will be in-person at Tunxis Community College and the MET2 Program student teams will be presenting their projects.
- Mobin Rastgar Agah noted that Norwalk Community College is involved in developing curriculum based on the needs of the CHIPS and Science Act. The college is short on faculty and it is also a challenge for the college financially so if there is any funding available or opportunities to collaborate, please let him know.

Upcoming COT Meetings

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

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

Important Dates

March 30th - Community College Innovation Challenge Submission Deadline

April 12th – 15th – ITEEA Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN

April 13th – American Manufacturing Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony – Jackson Labs, Farmington, CT

April 28th – Epsilon Pi Tau Gamma Phi Chapter Induction Ceremony – Held at Manchester Community College

May 16th -18th – EASTEC, West Springfield, MA

July 17th – 21st - DeafTEC Resource Center “Diversity Includes Disabilities” Professional Development, Portland, OR

July 24th – 27th – HI TEC – Atlanta, GA