

College of Technology – Site Coordinators Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 20, 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
Adam Scobie, Advanced Manufacturing Center Director, Housatonic CC
Felisha G. Fleurimond, Recruitment/Retention Coordinator, Housatonic CC
John Jagiani, Faculty, Program Coordinator, Northwestern CT CC
Crystal Wiggins, STEM DC, Northwestern CT CC
Sharon Gusky, Professor, Northwestern CT CC
Mathew Spinelli, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Manchester CC
Kadijah Shoultz, Guided Pathways Advisor, Tunxis CC
Mehrdad Faezi, Professor, Manchester CC
Richard Gnall, Professor, Manchester CC
Jim Doran, Interim Engineering Program Coordinator, Three Rivers CC
Matthew Enjalran, Professor & Chair, Physics, Southern CT State University
Alaa Sheta, Professor, Southern CT State University
Mary Bidwell, Dean of Advanced Manufacturing, Asnuntuck & Tunxis Community Colleges and Statewide Liasion, Advanced Manufacturing
Rich DuPont, Interim Associate Dean – Advanced Manufacturing Centers, Northwest Region
Mobin Rastgar Agah, Professor, Norwalk CC

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
Daniel Burkey, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education and Diversity, School of Engineering, University of Connecticut

Other

John Birch, Executive Director, MET² Program
Larry Pomerleau, Associate Education Consultant, CT Technical Education & Career System

AGENDA

- **Welcome Remarks - Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch, Executive Director, College of Technology & Executive Director & PI, National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing**
- **Attendee Introductions – All Attendees**
- **Advanced Manufacturing Updates, Mary Bidwell, Interim Dean Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Asnuntuck and Tunxis Community Colleges & Statewide Liaison for Manufacturing Programs**
 - [CSCU Manufacturing Challenge](#) – Friday, May 12, 12:30 – 2:30 at Asnuntuck Community College, is hosting a manufacturing competition to showcase all of our advanced manufacturing programs within the community college system and Central CT State University. Teams are competing from 5 of the community colleges. There will also be a timed robotics competition to showcase our robotics and mechatronics programs within the community college. Wendy can send the invite out to all of the membership that to come.
- **CT State Curriculum/Catalog Discussion**
 - Mehرداد Faezi of Manchester Community College noted that everyone should double check their programs in Degreeworks because what we put through might not have come into the college catalog the way it had been. HE noted that MFG 1420 Metrology is a prerequisite for MFG 2444 CNC I whereas the course itself shows “no prerequisites” and a search of “manufacturing engineering” in the CT State catalog leads to “engineering technology” option. Mary Bidwell of

Asnuntuck and Tunxis Community Colleges noted that if something needs to be change in the curriculum, it should go through the approval process, but if something is a typo is should not go through the whole approval process. Always keep Justin Moore, Dean of the School of Engineering & Technology for CT State, Karen, and Wendy in the loop for changes that need to be made. Mehrdad is also trying to work with Justin to make program searches less confusing when it comes to engineering and engineering technology programs.

- Crystal noted that some changes made in the curriculum made the data science program farther removed from what industry needs. Karen suggested Crystal draft what would make the program better aligned with industry needs.
- Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College noted that with technical writing, Central CT State University said they would take it if we added presentations to it. That was already in the curriculum, just not the title so we added public speaking to the title. Also, Degreeworks is not recognizing technical writing or applying it. John Jagtiani of Northwestern CT Community College noted that he has run into similar issues and there is a backlog of corrections to be made in the system but send any corrections to Justin.

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

- The [American Mfg Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony](#) was held last Thursday at Jackson Labs in Farmington. Next steps are to continue the conversation of how to make this a statewide initiative. At this time \$30,000 has been raised for scholarships for our advanced manufacturing programs. Rich DuPont of the North-West Region Community Colleges noted that he has received a lot of positive feedback from sponsors and manufacturers on the event and asking how they can be more involved. Ann Nyberg from WTNH has reached out about doing a story on women in manufacturing.
- The [CareerConneCT](#) portal is live and is a one-stop shop for people in CT who are looking for training and career opportunities. Since this is a new platform, the Office of Workforce Strategies is still open to comments on improvements that can be made.
- Microcredentials – Amy Feest of CT State reached out to Karen this morning to discuss how CT State can offer microcredentials in a stackable credential model. We are involved in the development of microcredentials for the CT SHIP grant, funded through the Department of Labor. Even though the grant focuses on healthcare programs, the development of a stackable microcredential model will be beneficial to other non-credit and credit programs in the system. We are leaning towards Credly as the microcredential platform.
- CHIPS and Science Act – Karen was in Washington, DC this week along with Sharon Gusky for a national Future of Work initiative that looks at competencies needed for our technician education programs. The National Science Foundation representatives there emphasized that the CHIPS & Science Act is really driving where their funding is going.
- AARP Manufacturing Scholarships – There is still funding available for these. Contact Wendy Robicheau - wrobicheau@txcc.commnet.edu if you have an eligible student. The requirements are that the student has to be enrolled in community college advanced manufacturing program, is age 50+, and is willing to share success story with COT, NCNGM, and AARP at the local and national levels. Rich DuPont noted that Nora Duncan from AARP CT may have more opportunities to reach out to manufacturing retirees who are interested in serving as instructors or mentors in programs as well.
- The Xometry Scholarships are for students attending our advanced manufacturing programs. Contact Marisa Rubera at mrubera@ccc.commnet.edu if you have questions or students who may want to apply.
- Share newsletter stories with Wendy Robicheau at wrobicheau@txcc.commnet.edu. The newsletter can include stories on events that happened, student and faculty highlights, and upcoming events. We like to share this within our system, with legislators, and national partners.
- The [Journal of Advanced Technological Education](#) is a peer-reviewed journal focused on technician education. They are looking for articles that highlight best practices in programs. It is nice to have a journal for us technician education faculty, staff, and administrators. They are looking for articles, so you can visit their website to submit one.
- Conferences
 - [HI TEC](#) – Many of us from CT went last year. This year it will be held in Atlanta from July 24th – 27th. Contact Karen and Wendy if you would like to attend this year. We are hosting a Special Interest Group (SIG) on manufacturing programs, a workshop on supply chain and quality assurance, and a panel session with industry partners. There are typically over 500 attendees with the majority being community college faculty, staff, and administration. Our sessions at HI TEC:
 - Next Generation Manufacturing Special Interest Group (SIG)
 - Pre-Conference Workshop: Interactive Activities for Logistics and Quality Assurance Lessons
 - Concurrent Sessions:
 - The Future of Advanced Manufacturing: What You and Your Students Will Need to Know
 - Addressing Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Needs Through the Recruitment and Retention of Women
 - Poster Session: Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Skills: Industry 4.0 and Beyond
 - Participation in the conference expo - National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing and

partners will provide an exhibit, resources, and information on the Center to attendees.

- [EASTEC](#) is May 16 – 18 at the BIG E fairgrounds. There is a free educator registration option. Some of our national partners will be here and will be attending. EASTEC is held every two years.
- [Epsilon Pi Tau](#) Induction Ceremony – April 28th- The application has changed to an electronic application. Contact Wendy with any questions. We will also need readers for the ceremony.
- Our May 17th COT Meeting will include presentations from students in our MET² Program. John Birch from the MET² Program noted there are three student projects this year directly involving technologies that can be applied in manufacturing.
- The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) administers [Summer Manufacturing Internships for College Students](#). This is funded through the Manufacturing Innovation Fund. Visit the website and contact Eileen Candels from CCAT for more information.
- **Attendee Updates**
 - John Birch noted that we will be holding the virtual Summer Teachers Workshop again this year. Attendees are primarily faculty from community colleges, but high school educators and university faculty from across the country may participate too. They go through the same professional and technical skills lessons that the MET² students go through. Attendees are then invited to develop curriculum for implementation in their own classrooms. Attendees receive a year-long Solidworks license, mini-drone, and Micro:bit.
 - Sharon Gusky noted that there is supplemental National Science Foundation funding associated with their Advanced Technological Education grants. She does not have companies in her area but could partner with someone else in the state if they have local industry needs. Also, the Yard Goats have a program to recognize STEM students during games. You can nominate your students and if they are selected they throw out the first pitch, get a blurb about them and their photo on the Jumbotron, and get free tickets to bring their family the night they are honored.

Upcoming COT Meetings

May 17, 2023, 9:00am – 12:00pm, Tunxis Community College, Building 600, room 6-127/128

Important Dates

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

May 12th – CSCU Manufacturing Challenge – Held at Asnuntuck Community College

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

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