



College of Technology – Site Coordinators Meeting

Date: Friday, May 14, 2021

Time: 9:00AM

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Welcome Remarks - Dr. Karen Wosczyzna- Birch, Executive Director, College of Technology-Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (COT-RCNGM), welcomed everyone to the last COT meeting for the semester noting that the meeting will begin with the Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering Technologies Program (MET²) student project presentations.

Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering Technologies Program (MET²) Overview

- MET² Technology Skills and Project - Eric Flynn, Lead Technology Advisor, MET² & Dept. Chair, Engineering & Applied Technologies, Gateway Community College, noted that we usually do these student presentations on a college campus. We have been running the MET² Program for about five years. The COT-RCNGM and MET² project team was thanked. An explanation of the overall project was provided. Jacob Jackson, Professor, Gateway Community College and MET² Technical Advisor, provided an overview of the technologies used in the program.
- **Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering Technologies Program (MET²) Student Presentations: Team A & E, Team B, Team C, and Team D**
- MET² Program and Professional Skills - John Birch, Executive Director, MET² noted that the presentations were great and that many of the students had never made a presentation before. MET² is based on a program that started about 18 years ago and that program was the Life Support and Sustainable Living Program. The focus of recruitment is underrepresented, female, and veteran students. 35 – 40% of participants have been female over the life of the program. Each year, the program begins during the Winter Intersession where they learn professional and technical skills. Overall, it began with a partnership with University of Hartford and NASA where students needed to learn professional skills. The community college and university students help each other on their teams. Students have been hired because of their participation in the program. Skills are incorporated based on workforce needs. Projects have been done with NASA, GE, Pratt & Whitney, and the US Geological Survey.

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

- The Tech Times Newsletter is widely distributed. Submit news items to Wendy Robicheau at wrobicheau@commnet.edu.
- Thank you to Joe DeFeo who will be retiring from his position as Director of the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center at Naugatuck Valley Community College.
- Jakob Spjut of Quinebaug Valley CC Quadcopter Challenge received NASA funding for a quadcopter challenge. He has an opportunity for a 4-year university professor and a 4-year university student to participate. Contact him at JSpjut@qvcc.commnet.edu.
- The COT-RCNGM will hold its annual Summer Teacher Workshop – July 12th – 15th. This will be virtual with a focus on both technical and professional skills that can be incorporated into participants' own courses.
- Registration is open for the virtual High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (HI TEC) – July 21st – 22nd. Contact Wendy Robicheau at wrobicheau@commnet.edu for a code for free registration.
- Congratulations to all of the inductees from our Epsilon Pi Tau Gamma Phi Chapter.

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

- The KSA categories were reviewed.
- Frank Avery from the Business-Higher Education Forum noted that they are now circling back around to employer partners. The KSAs were originally vetted by these partners. They are looking forward to working with the COT/community college representatives to form the industry piece.
- Charlotte Peyser noted that in the KSA curriculum mapping the most prominent gaps between courses and KSAs are in Data Visualization, Data Ethics, and security areas. Three potential models are having students grandfathered in, a bootcamp, or upskilling and reskilling. The current status is that cohort meetings started last week, partners are being engaged, we are strategizing an expedited approval process, and beginning with the grandfather and bootcamp models.
- Frank Avery noted that different campuses can deploy different models.

College of Technology and Connecticut State Community College Updates – Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch, COT-RCNGM; Dr. Michael Rooke, President, Northwestern CT Community College and Interim Vice President & Provost, Connecticut State Community College; Susan Barzottini, Consolidation/Alignment Manager, Connecticut State Community College; Sharon Gusky, Professor, Northwestern CT Community College & Chair, COT Curriculum Committee

- Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that we wanted to provide an update on the current status of the curriculum alignment:
 - Engineering Science Alignment Proposal Submitted
 - Technology Studies Alignment Proposal Submitted (except manufacturing programs)
 - Manufacturing Program Proposal deadline extended to Fall 2021
- Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT CC noted that Engineering Science was aligned by working with the community colleges and partner universities. There are almost 30 combinations that had to be aligned. Outcomes and credits were aligned for courses. The Technology Studies alignment was also submitted.
- Susan Barzottini noted that the course forms are needed. Sharon Gusky asked if there is an updated course template. Susan responded to just use the template we have been using.
- Susan Barzottini noted that the Aligned Program Review Committee (APRC) is checking the proposals. They will note that CCS 101 is missing from COT curriculum and will have to take a step on that. Sharon Gusky noted that this course does not meet program requirements at the COT partner universities. The diversity requirement can be met in sociology and behavioral science courses. Susan noted that COT will likely be on the fall review agenda.
- Susan Barzottini noted that she has met with Mary Bidwell regarding the manufacturing programs. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that this is moving along and we are very close to getting everything aligned. Currently we have three manufacturing certificates that will be defined in the program name. The target to have these completed is September.
- Michael Rooke noted that Board of Regents policy requires CCS 101 and he will reach out to discuss this further. It will be helpful to have the information from the universities. Sharon Gusky noted that she sent this already and that the COT is all or none, if all the courses don't transfer to one university, it nullifies all agreements. Jakob Spjut of Quinebaug Valley CC noted that we have been discussing this for the past year and have presented it. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that she would be happy to meet to discuss this and will resend the information from the universities. In the past the COT has had exemptions from other policies. Michael Rooke noted that they will have to go to the Board of Regents because the APRC will reject proposals if CCS 101 is not included.
- Michael Rooke asked if we can discuss the course prerequisites. Sharon Gusky noted that the prerequisites were not difficult to clean up.
- Francine Rosselli of the APRC gave kudos for getting the degrees aligned and once we have all the courses and manufacturing programs we can run them through the APRC.
- Jakob Spjut would like to review a few prerequisites again. Sharon Gusky will review these and a few math courses have to be decided by the math department.

Michael Rooke noted that in the fall he would like to meet with the COT and share where the COT will be in the new organizational structure. He has been discussing this with President Lombella.

Microcredentials

- Karen Wosczyzna-Birch had a conversation with Provost Jane Gates yesterday. She wants the COT to look into packaging courses to make microcredentials. Microcredentials are part of legislation now. They will fit into the COT stackable credential model and meet workforce needs. We are looking at a couple such as an Intro to electronics and Digital CAD course/microcredential. Provost Gates had said if we are using current courses, the microcredentials will not need approval, they will be an FYI. There could be funding to develop microcredentials.
- Sharon Gusky noted that Northwestern CT CC has a lot of certificates that are under 15 credits/below threshold. Karen Wosczyzna-birch noted that we would look into putting anything like this into the microcredential portfolio.
- Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that there might be stipends available for development of microcredentials.
- Sharon Gusky noted concern with completion counting only for certificates and degrees.
- Ren Sharma of Naugatuck Valley CC asked if certain certificates/microcredentials require a general education component.
- Jakob Spjut of Quinebaug Valley CC suggested having a formalized way of counting NIMS and other industry-recognized credentials as 3-credit courses. Sharon Gusky noted the technical high schools' NIMS credentials are already articulated to the community colleges.
- Karen Wosczyzna-Birch asked Ren Sharma if Naugatuck Valley CC falls under the agreement with the CT technical high schools. Ren Sharma replied that they have been using the credit for life experience model. Mehrdad Faezi of Manchester CC noted that he has referred students to Charter Oak State College for this. Jakob Spjut also used credit by exam and credit for prior learning.
- Ren Sharma asked how the credentials fit into engineering. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch responded that they fit into Technology Studies.
- Matthew Enjalran of Southern CT State University noted his concern with resources in developing microcredentials, such as staff. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that there may be buy-in from industry to support offering microcredentials.
- Sharon Gusky asked that the Site Coordinators review the course proposals and will reconvene the curriculum committee to go over these again. Jakob Spjut noted that Board of Regents is offering stipends for alignment work over the summer for faculty.