College of Technology – Site Coordinators Meeting
Date: Friday, September 10, 2021
Time: 9:00AM
Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Welcome Remarks - Dr. Karen Wosczyna- Birch, Executive Director, College of Technology-National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (COT-NCNGM)

Introductions – All attendees provided a brief introduction

Digital Generalist Pathway – Candace Williams, Director of Policy Research & Strategic Initiatives, New England Board of Higher Education
- This is a pilot program to expand technology talent in Connecticut through a Digital Generalist Pathway. A lot of work was done over the summer to map KSAs to courses, especially by Andre Freeman (Capital Community College) and Crystal Wiggins (Northwestern CT Community College). This fall the project will be supporting up to five faculty for $1500 each to do work during the fall semester. An application will be sent out. Current industry partners are Stanley Black & Decker, Accenture, and Pitney Bowes.

College of Technology and Connecticut State Community College Curriculum Alignment Updates – Dr. Karen Wosczyna-Birch, COT-RCNGM and Sharon Gusky, Professor, Northwestern CT Community College & Chair, COT Curriculum Committee
- Technology Studies will be on the October COT Meeting agenda.
- The 12 community colleges will be consolidated into one college, Connecticut State Community College, and all programs and courses have to be aligned and approved.
- All documentation due to APRC by 11/5 for APRC Meeting on 11/19 for review
- VOTE: Addition of CCS 101 Course to Engineering Science A.S. Degrees
  - Sharon Gusky – Per the Board of Regents mandate, we added in the CCS 101 course but did not take away any other courses.
  - Motion to approve the Engineering Science curriculum by Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College; motion seconded by Eric Flynn of Gateway Community College. Discussion: Jakob Spjut of Quinebaug Valley Community College noted that it is the right of discipline professors and transfer universities to determine what makes for a good and transferrable degree. Students will have a hold if they do not take CCS 101 in the first year. Mobin Rastah Agar of Norwalk Community College noted that if the Board of Regents was serious of this course, they should have the system universities accept it. Mathew Spinelli of Tunxis Community College agreed with Mobin and that students should not be forced to take a course that does not transfer. Jakob Spjut noted that 68-70 credits may cost more of 17 credits per semester over fours semesters. The motion was approved with 11 in favor, 4 opposed, and 2 abstained.
- Rich DuPont of the North-West Region community colleges noted that with the Governor's Workforce Council and skills-based learning, someone will realize the importance if the College of Technology.
- Lin Lin of Middlesex Community College noted that in the long run, the College of Technology needs a better marketing campaign. We will look at the new College of Technology page on the CT State Colleges & Universities website and request any changes, including making sure the College of Technology is up front for transferring to University of Connecticut. Send Wendy Robicheau and changes.
- VOTE: Engineering Science Courses
  - For EGR 115 – take out the specific programming language in the course description.

- o Bring in Mathew Spinelli and Mobin Rastah Agar for CAD 133
- o Take CAD 110 and CAD 220 off of the engineering course list and move to Technology Studies courses.
- o Mobin will add the EGR 299 Internship course for a vote in October.
- o Jakob Spjut noted to make sure co-requisites and pre-requisites are listed consistently.
- o Motion to accept the EGR courses as presented on the course forms for alignment by Mobin Rastah Agar of Norwalk Community College; motion seconded by Jakob Spjut of Quinebaug Valley Community College. Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

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

- Tech Times Newsletter – submit news items to Wendy Robicheau at wrobicheau@commnet.edu
- CLICKs – There will be a faculty info session on Friday, Sept. 24 from 11:00-12:30. Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College has participated in CLICKs for several years. Mobin Rastah Agar of Norwalk Community College has also participated. He was able to have some synchronous times with his partner in France.
- EASTEC will take place October 19-21 in West Springfield, MA. Let Karen or Wendy know if you need and support for getting students there.
- There UBS Pitch Competition coming up. The deadline is probably too close to get student teams together this year, but there is a call with them next week. Let Karen know if you would be interested in having students participate in the future.
- Discussion of National Science Foundation (NSF) Grants & Outreach/Marketing Allowability
  - o NSF grants cannot pay for marketing activities or materials but can pay for outreach activities and materials.
- Updates on initiatives with Office of Workforce Strategies
  - o The Office of Workforce Strategies, led by Kelli Vallieres, has become a very powerful group. Rich DuPont noted that we should be going to the Committee meetings; however, many who signed up are not getting notifications.
- Microcredentials & Industry Credentials
  - o Karen Wosczyna-Birch has been called into many meetings regrading microcredentials this week alone. Ken Kluzcnik, who will be the interim Provost when Jane Gates retires in January, called these. We are trying to get our arms around the definition of microcredentials in the system, what quality control will look like, and how they will be implemented.
  - o For existing certificates, it will emphasize industry support and interest. Microcredentials and digital badges will be recognized by industry and help students when they look for jobs.
  - o Charter Oak State College has a grant in healthcare and a contract with Credly for a year to create digital badges but can go with another platform later.
  - o Karen Wosczyna-Birch is a moderator for a panel for a webinar this afternoon and Credly is one of the presenters because the topic is looking at non-traditional ways of getting certifications. It is sponsored by ASEE and will be recorded.
  - o There is a whole non-credit piece to the microcredentials. You can give a microcredential or digital badge on the non-credit side of the house. The three Regional Workforce Officers have been a part of the conversation. The project being done with NEBHE that was mentioned earlier does have to be credit because their funding source for the grant they have to create it requires the microcredential to be associated with a credit award.
  - o Lin Lin of Middlesex Community College noted that the [Digital Generalist] microcredential program being developed might overlap with existing programs such as computer information technology and asked how their credit side will interact with our program – will they eventually have a plan to replace our curriculum in existing programs? Karen Wosczyna-Birch responded that microcredentials should not be replacing current programs. The idea is for them to stack into current programs. Part of this on the non-credit side is to offer things quick to meet workforce needs and provide a pipeline of students to take our credit programs. This is why it is important to be at the table in these meetings and bring back anything you hear to the COT
  - o

Meetings because we do not want microcredentials replacing a program.
- In IT there are a lot of standalone certifications from IBM, Google, and Amazon, etc. so it can get confusing but the goal is to see how they stack into A.S. degrees.
- The Board of Regents and College of Technology is involved in this on the non-credit side right now. The current agreement is to offer Amazon's curriculum as non-credit and in the future see how it can be offered as credit. There is also a conversation going on with Google to offer some of their certifications. IBM has reached out but they only want to do credit. There is a lot of movement with looking at these certificates that the non-credit side would like to offer, but we also want to take a look at it and how we can make it a feeder into certificates and degrees. Karen will keep everyone in the loop with anything she knows and if you hear anything bring it to the COT.

Manufacturing Pathway Initiative (MPI) Presentation – Steve LaPointe, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Quinebaug Valley Community College
- See attached slides for presentation.
- Rich DuPont asked how many students move on to the next credit level. Steve LaPointe responded that 3-4 students out of 10-15 move up.
- Karen Wosczyna-Birch mentioned that Kellie Vallieres said workforce boards will be implementing the MPI program. Steve LaPointe noted that implementation needs to be consistent across the state. Rich DuPont noted that the Office of Workforce Strategies' focus is on immediate need.
- Joe DeFeo of Naugatuck Valley Community College asked if metrology is part of the benchwork course. Steve LaPointe responded that it is. Matthew Spinelli noted that this is a great opportunity to bring high school technology education teachers in to help them understand and create articulated courses.

Other Business
- Laurie Granstrand of University of Hartford noted that they are going for ABET accreditation and was asked why "P" grades are being accepted and when that will end? She explained that it was due to COVID and had to switch in the middle and allowing community college partners to do the same. Jakob Spjut responded that it was never standard "P" grade, it was credit for transfer or credit not for transfer and Mehrdad Faezi of Manchester Community College added that we are not doing it anymore. Sharon Gusky also noted that that decision is usually made at the end of the semester by the system, whether or not it comes up. Karen Wosczyna-Birch noted that if it is awarded for credit, then it was a "C" or better. Sharon Gusky noted that that is part of the policy and the actual grades are on file with the colleges' registrars so you can ask the students to get those records if needed.

Upcoming COT Meetings
Friday, October 8th, 2021
Friday, November 12th, 2021
Friday, December 10th, 2021
Friday, February 11th, 2022
Friday, March 11th, 2022
Friday, April 8th, 2022
Friday, May 13th, 2022

Other Important Dates
Friday, September 24th, 2022 – CLICKs Faculty Info Session – 11:00am - 12:30pm - Virtual
October 19th – 21st – EASTEC – West Springfield, CT