



Meeting Minutes for Western Maryland IT Center of Excellence meeting on

**April 24, 2017**

**9:00- 10:30am**

Present:

Autumn Becker

Kristi Smith, ACM

Stu Czapski, Chamber

Paul Smith, WIB

Tabitha Barbarito, CEDC

Elizabeth Stahlman, City of Frostburg

David Nedved, Allegany County

Troy Donoway, FSU

Melissa Kaye, ACPS

Mike Dignan, CTE

Joni Reed, Allegany County Library

Jonathan Hutcherson, Exclamation Labs

David Biser, NTT Security

Steve Wagner, WMHS

Matt Growden, First United Bank & Trust

Mike Fiscus, ACPS (guest)

- ACPS Lego League Initiative, Melissa Kaye & Mike Fiscus  
Melissa and Mike presented the newly developed group, REACT, which seeks to develop engaging and fun robotics learning experiences for all young people throughout Allegany County. REACT is a coalition of Allegany County educators and mentors working together and hopes to become a non-profit and be independent of ACPS, so the programs will be open to ALL young people (homeschool, private schools, etc.). REACT hopes to emulate the success of the Garrett County Robotics team, which has won international awards. The vision of the group is to be the driving force in Allegany County for the development of additional Lego/Robotics teams in the County. They are in need of funding to start additional teams (costs approximately \$2,500 to start a new team plus a laptop) as well as volunteers to be team coaches and mentors. They also need space to host the teams. REACT is also planning a summer camp this June. Companies interested in sponsoring or donating time/equipment should contact Melissa and Mike directly. [melissa.kaye@acpsmd.org](mailto:melissa.kaye@acpsmd.org) & [michael.fiscus@acpsmd.org](mailto:michael.fiscus@acpsmd.org)
- P-TECH Update  
Recruitment for the program started in March and as of April 22, there were 16 student applicants. Our goal for the program is 20. Applications are due by the end of April. Autumn updated the group on implementation funding, which will include an additional \$750 per year per student plus ACM will be eligible to apply for grant funds to cover 50% of the tuition. Curriculum was developed for a 4, 5, & 6 year track, and the students

will choose which track they wish to follow. The Steering Committee has been meeting monthly to plan for recruiting and implementation. The next meeting is scheduled for May 10.

- **Cybersecurity program update, Kristi Smith**  
Kristi noted she will have her first group of Cyber students graduating in May- 10 students in all. She is hoping to find positions locally for those who wish to seek employment, while others are transferring on to earn a Bachelors degree. To date, she has 84 students in the Cybersecurity program, quadrupling the enrollment since the program inception 2 years ago.
- **Mountain Maryland Tech Network**  
Autumn updated the group on the MMTN Kick-Off Reception held April 12, 2017 at Mezzo's. Over 115 people registered to attend the event from Garrett, Allegany and Washington counties and roughly 95 were attendance. Autumn thanked Exclamation Labs who sponsored the event as well as the many folks from the IT Center who attended the kick-off event. MMTN is an initiative hosted by the IT Center/ACM, Hagerstown Community College (Janice Riley), FSU (Joe Hoffman) & Garrett College (Mike Tumbarello). MMTN is open to anyone interested in growing tech startups, developing their own inventions, conducting their own research and development or support of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Western Maryland. The planning committee is meeting again in early May to apply for Dept. of Commerce grant funding to continue the work of the group and additional MMTN sessions will be scheduled for the rest of the year. Autumn will keep the group updated.
- **Quarterly Reports**  
Autumn distributed the most recent quarterly reports submitted to DLLR on 4/17/17. If any partner has questions or needs additional copies, please contact Autumn.
- **FY18 Letter of Intent Award!**  
We were recently awarded the nearly \$250,000 we asked for in funding from the Cyber Jobs Training grants administered via EARN. The funding will begin July 1, 2017 and run for two years. Autumn distributed the full request to the group. In a nutshell, we budgeted for \$20k for the next 2 years to fund Tech at the Gap as well as a wealth of incumbent worker trainings. Also in our funding request was money to administer our new entry level training initiative, a short term Computer Science Pathway program Kristi and Autumn have been working on. Autumn will be reaching out in the near future with employers to schedule incumbent worker training dates- stay posted for more information and additional planning!
- **Western MD STEM Festival**  
Autumn reminded the group of the Western MD STEM Festival scheduled for May 6, 2017, 10am- 2pm, at FSU's gym. The purpose of the event is to invigorate the interest of youth in Allegany County in science, technology, engineering, & math by producing and presenting the most compelling, exciting, educational, and entertaining STEM activities. Representatives from business/industry are needed to provide hands-on activities in

STEM areas for varying age groups. Questions can be directed to Linda Steele at FSU: [lsteele@frostburg.edu](mailto:lsteele@frostburg.edu)

- Commercial Property Showcase, Tabitha Barbarito  
The CEDC is planning for their next Commercial Property showcase, scheduled for June 24 from 11am- 2pm. This is also the same day as Plein Air event and a car show on the Downtown Mall. Tabitha is trying to make the event as inviting and exciting as possible and welcomes additional properties and suggestions to draw folks to Downtown for the day.
- Elizabeth Stahlman provided an update regarding the University-based target industry analysis conducted in Frostburg. The goal of the project was to identify high wage jobs in the area that could inform programming at FSU and ACM. The City, along with FSU, is working to organize a structured process for implementation. Liz will be reaching out very soon to the Steering Committee to set a date for a “next steps” meeting. For more information, reach out to Liz directly.
- NEXT MEETING: July, 2017!