



Meeting Minutes for Western Maryland IT Center of Excellence meeting on

**August 2, 2017**

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

Present:

Autumn Becker

Elizabeth Stahlman, City of Frostburg

David Nedved, Allegany County

Troy Donoway, FSU

Melissa Kaye, ACPS

Joni Reed, Allegany County Library

Bobbie Cooper, Exclamation Labs

Jenny Krampf, Exclamation Labs

Charlotte Clark, IBM

Beth Thomas, Allegany County Government IT

Steve Wagner, WMHS

Mark Widmyer, Advantage Computer

Matt Growden, First United Bank & Trust

Les Broadwater, Orbital ATK

- P-TECH Update, Melissa Kaye  
Recruitment for the program started in March and as of August, there are 22 student applicants. Our goal for the program was 20. A Welcome & Celebration Dinner is being planned for August 22 at Allegany College of Maryland. Melissa is planning cohort wide breakfast meetings for the students to provide team building and guest speakers. A recruitment focus for next year's cohort will be attracting more girls to the program (this year we only have two female students).
- Mountain Maryland Tech Network  
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. Several upcoming events were highlighted:
  - August 16: Innovation & Brews\*, Antietam Brewery, Hagerstown
  - September 7: Funding from Angels, the Feds, & More: A Business Assistance Forum, Hagerstown Community College
  - October 23: Tech at the Gap Opening Reception, Rocky Gap Casino Resort
  - October 25: TEDCO Entrepreneur Expo, Baltimore, [expo.teco.md](http://expo.teco.md)\*this will be a monthly networking event

- REACT Update, Melissa Kaye  
 Melissa provided an update on REACT, which seeks to develop engaging and fun robotics learning experiences for all young people throughout Allegany County. REACT recently filed for their non-profit status, which should take several weeks to process. AES Warrior Run is committed to providing \$2,500 in sponsorship once the Nonprofit is designated. REACT held a week long summer camp in June and hosted 27 kids at Washington Middle School. The planning group has been busy this summer in launching new Lego groups: four new elementary groups, all four middle schools now have a team, and a new team starting up at Fort Hill. A Community Night is being planned for November 30 at ACM to showcase the student groups and highlight funding and volunteer needs to potential community partners. Companies interested in sponsoring or donating time/equipment should contact Melissa directly. [melissa.kaye@acpsmd.org](mailto:melissa.kaye@acpsmd.org)
- Quarterly Reports  
 Autumn distributed the most recent quarterly reports submitted to DLLR on 7/15/17. If any partner has questions or needs additional copies, please contact Autumn.
- FY18 Letter of Intent Award & Workforce Training Plan  
 We were recently awarded the nearly \$250,000 we asked for in funding from the Cyber Jobs Training grants administered via EARN. The funding began July 1, 2017 and runs for two years. Autumn distributed the training plan outline, which is attached to this report for review.
- Autumn updated the group on plans for the EXCELeRATE program, expected to begin in February 2018. The short term training program will prepare students for entry level employment (with an A+ credential) and can articulate into ACM's Computer Science credit program. Students will study Computer Fundamentals, Cisco Networking, Cybersecurity, and CompTIA A+ Certification along with essential skills training and orientation to ACM. Targeted marketing (print, social media, etc.) will begin in Fall 2017. Autumn distributed the program flier, which is attached to this report for review.
- 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 together on implementation of the study, calling the initiative Frostburg Forward. A launch meeting is scheduled for August 18 at FSU. For more information, reach out to Liz directly.
- NEXT MEETING: November, 2017!