Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2017

9:00- 10:30am

Present:
Autumn Becker
Jennifer Light, ACM
Jeff Kirk, ACM
Kristi Smith, ACM
Paul Smith, Western MD Consortium
Elizabeth Stahlman, City of Frostburg
Troy Donoway, FSU
Jonathan Hutcherson, Exclamation Labs
Beth Thomas, Allegany County Government IT
Steve Wagner, WMHS
Mark Widmyer, Advantage Computer

- Tech at the Gap updates
  Autumn distributed summary evals and the final budget for the committees review. A determination on a 2018 date should be made soon to secure Rocky Gap. Autumn is going to check on dates for MEDA Fall conference, Cyber Maryland, and the TEDCO Entrepreneur Expo to try to avoid major conflicts. A date should be secured with Rocky Gap before the end of November.

- Governor Hogan's ACCESS initiative
  Governor Larry Hogan recently announced a comprehensive computer science education and workforce development plan, including a new executive order, proposed legislation, and $5 million in new education funding. The governor's plan, known as the ACCESS Initiative (Achieving Computer Science Collaborations for Employing Students Statewide), is committed to strengthening computer science education across states for all

students in order to meet the demands of a 21st century workforce and prepare students for the jobs of the future.

Of specific interest to our group, in order to specifically promote the education of young girls in STEM and computer science and increase the number of women in the computer science workforce, Governor Hogan announced a partnership with Girls Who Code to create the first-ever Governor's Club Challenge in the nation. Girls Who Code is a national non-profit organization working to close the gender gap in technology fields. The Girls Who Code clubs are free after-school programs that allow 6th- through 12th-grade girls to use computer science to impact their communities alongside supportive peers and role models. There are already 23 clubs in the state, and the Governor's Club Challenge will create a partnership among state and local leaders, school districts, community organizations, and industry representatives to launch new Girls Who Code clubs in diverse communities statewide. Autumn will be sending out a doodle poll to set a meeting date in early December to discuss the establishment of a Girls Who Code club in Allegany County. All partners are asked to reach out to the female staff to encourage their participation in this initiative.

- Digital Badging Discussion

  ACM has been exploring the use of digital badging as it relates to student learning and if/how that translates to eventual employment. Autumn asked the group their perceptions on digital badging in education. Based on the discussion that ensued, the general consensus was that most employers prefer to look at a transcript/degree attainment, industry credentials, and performance outside of formal education to assess the skills of an applicant as opposed to digital badges. The main issue with digital badging lies with differing standards across colleges and universities and unfamiliarity with the comprehension attainment associated with the badges.

- P-TECH Update

  Mentor contracts are in the final stages of development and employers are reminded to recommend staff to volunteer as P-TECH mentors. Final determinations are being made on the communication platform for mentors and students. Autumn also reminded the group of Melissa's recent email requesting volunteers for guest speakers at her Breakfast Seminars. The dates for the seminars are December 19, January 10, March 28, and May 2, all held at CCTE. The agenda is flexible in the amount of time for each presentation- Melissa has allocated 30 minutes for each guest speaker (2 at each breakfast) with a 30 minute activity between guest speakers. Autumn indicated Melissa Kaye should certainly be involved in the Girls Who Code initiative as a recruitment focus for next year's cohort will be attracting more girls to the program (this year we only have two female students).

- Quarterly Reports

  Autumn distributed the most recent quarterly reports submitted to DLLR on 10/15/17. If any partner has questions or needs additional copies, please contact Autumn.

- Workforce Training Plan schedule reminder

TRAINING	DATE & TIME
Project Management (PMI; PMP) * exam not included	November 13-17, 2017 8:00am- 5:00pm
ITIL Foundations *certification exam given on last day of training	December 5-7, 2017 8:30am- 4:30pm
CompTIA Network+ *certification voucher included	March 12-16, 2018 8:30am- 4:30pm
Certified Ethical Hacker (EC Council) * certification voucher included	April 16-20, 2018
Microsoft 2012 Server * certification voucher included	May 7-11, 2018 8:30AM- 4:30PM
Certified Network Defender (EC Council) * certification voucher included	Sep-18

- 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 soon.

- NEXT MEETING: January 18, 2018 @ 9am!