



IT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

WESTERN MARYLAND

Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2019

9:00- 11:00am

Attending:

Autumn Becker, ACM
Jennifer Light, ACM
Charlotte Clark, IBM
Stu Czapski, Allegany County Chamber of Commerce
Les Broadwater, Northrop Grumman
Jonathan Hutcherson, Exclamation Labs
Bri Willetts, Willetts Tech
Melissa Kaye, ACPS
Paul Smith, Western MD Consortium
Sheri Sterne, Western MD Consortium
Troy Donoway, FSU
David Nedved, Allegany County
Matt Growden, First United Bank & Trust
Mary Keller, EARN MD, DLLR
Jim House, ACM
Bill Byers, WMHS
Greg Sites, WMHS

- Marry Keller, our EARN MD Grant Advisor, joined our meeting to meet our stakeholders. She spent a few minutes thanking our partnership for our efforts and noted that our recent grant award of \$566,000 was the largest award in EARN history.
- P-TECH Update, Melissa Kaye
Melissa shared updates on the freshman (25 students still in cohort) and sophomore cohort (14 students remain in cohort). The sophomore students participated in their first college level course this past fall and that brought a variety of challenges related to student self-regulation and orientation into the Blackboard LMS platform. Melissa

worked very closely with the course instructor, Rita Thomas, to ensure as many students could be successful as possible. There were a few who did not pass the class. We have lost a few others in the cohort due to moving out of the area or choosing to pursue different careers. Adjustments have been made to the freshman's schedule to include an orientation course prior to their first credit course to better position them for success. Melissa is still pursuing the communication platform for PTECH mentors and would like to plan a meet and greet for mentors and students this spring. It will most likely be held at ACM. Details will follow and more volunteers are still needed. Melissa also still has two spots open to presenters for the Student Breakfast seminars on 2/13 at 10:30am and 3/12 at 10:30am. Email Melissa directly to get signed up. Recruitment for P-TECH Cohort 3 will begin soon and the application window will open on March 5. The window will close if there are 40 applicants. Otherwise, the window will close on Saturday, March 16. Finally, the P-TECH Lottery will take place on Monday, March 18, 2019. There are 25 seats available and no selection criteria.

Melissa shared some upcoming dates for stakeholders to mark on their calendars:

- P-TECH Recruitment Meeting- March 5, 2019- 6:00 P.M.@ CCTE
- Annual Stakeholder meeting- Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 1:00 p.m. @ ACM

- REACT Update, Melissa Kaye
REACT has had a banner year for fundraising and now has teams established in each middle and high school. Most elementary schools also have teams, with a few to be added next school year. The biggest need now is for volunteers to mentor additional teams. Additionally, REACT is continuing their pursuit of physical space. They have outgrown Garrett County's qualifier and will be planning for their own Allegany County qualifier this coming December.
- EXCELerate Update
EXCELerate, which started in September, is a new, innovative approach to flexible learning being offered as a two semester program. We had four students enroll and all passed the two courses that were delivered in the fall semester. Students will complete five training modules in all to give them the skills required for the entry level IT workforce. Students can choose to articulate their coursework into as many as 13 college credits, putting them one step closer to a one-year Certificate or Associate's degree in Computer Science at Allegany College of Maryland. Training modules include Computer Fundamentals, Cisco Networking, Cybersecurity, & CompTIA A+ Certification as well as a program Orientation and Workplace & College Ready Essentials. Courses are offered online and in the evening, making the program as flexible and accessible as possible. Additional course details can be found on our website- www.allegany.edu/excelerate
Plans are underway to offer the program again in 2019- 2020.
- IT Center website development
In our new project schedule, we allocated some funding for creation of a website for the IT Center. Our goal in launching a website would be to increase visibility of our training opportunities and provide a platform for new businesses and job seekers to learn about

our mission. It would also be a place to showcase the efforts of the many organizations we support/partner with like REACT, PTECH, Girls Who Code, Western MD Works, etc. Autumn asked for partners to provide their suggestions for website features and a few were discussed to include: links to career pages of each partner, GIS location to partners and training sites, and a discussion board for open communication. Exclamation Labs is taking the lead in the website development and we will share a draft of the site at our next partner meeting in April. Completion goal is June 2019.

- Spring 2019 internships
ACM has five interns this semester and we still need placement for THREE of them. All 3 students will be graduating this May and are studying Cybersecurity. They are open to any sort of internship experience and are required to complete 40 hours of work. Employers are welcome to interview the students. They will be ready to work mid-March and need to complete the hours by early May. Autumn will send out student resumes on Tuesday, February 12.
Matt Growden shared that he was recently contacted by a professor at Potomac State who had several interns he needed to place. Anyone who is willing to offer an internship to a student at Potomac State should contact Kevin Arjel at kevin.arjel@mail.wvu.edu
- 2019-2020 Training Plan
We were awarded our full \$566,000 request from DLLR and our new grant award began 1/1/19. Autumn sent out the entire incumbent training plan for 2019-2020 in January. Employers should pay close attention to the individual course tabs to see how many seats they can fill and when rosters are due. Our first training begins on March 4, Agile Certified Practitioner, and roster information is due Friday, 2/8/19. Please contact Autumn with any questions or to modify your seat request.
- Tech at the Gap: **October 10, 2019. Please mark your calendars now!**
A discussion ensued concerning the theme for this year's conference. Based on last year's feedback, there were a lot of comments about including more topics on Artificial Intelligence. A broad conference theme of "Intelligence" would be able to encompass a wide variety of topics. The planning committee will begin monthly with the first meeting scheduled for **Friday, February 22, 2019 at 10am**. A Calendar Invitation will be forthcoming for anyone who would like to serve on that committee.
- Quarterly Reports
Autumn distributed the most recent quarterly reports submitted to DLLR on 1/15/19. If any partner has questions or needs additional copies, please contact Autumn.
- NEXT MEETING: April 2019- will hopefully include a tour of the Phase I renovations to our Tech building!