



# IT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

WESTERN MARYLAND

## Meeting Minutes

**November 8, 2018**

**1:00- 3:00pm**

Present:

Autumn Becker

Jennifer Light, ACM

Charlotte Clark, IBM

Stu Czapski, Allegany County Chamber of Commerce

Les Broadwater, Northrop Grumman

Jonathan Hutcherson, Exclamation Labs

Andrew Cope, Exclamation Labs

Ashley Swinford, Allegany County Library

Bri LaVorgna, Willetts Tech

Annie Weinschenk, guest

Christina Kilduff, guest

- MTIP Program, Annie Weinschenk <https://mtip.umbc.edu/>  
Annie joined our group to share the opportunity for Tech Internship wage reimbursement recently instated by the State of Maryland. The Maryland Technology Internship Program (MTIP) helps Maryland retain top talent by increasing the number of paid technical internships offered in the state. Administered by UMBC and funded by the State of Maryland, the program offers financial assistance to technology-based businesses, as well as state and local agencies, to hire more interns. Currently, Annie has earmarked \$90k for fall internships and an additional \$225k is left to be awarded for spring and summer 2019. Employers hosting interns in Maryland are eligible for 50% wage reimbursement, up to \$3,000 annually per intern. Both the intern and the employer requesting reimbursement must meet a few eligibility requirements, which are fully outlined in the attached PowerPoint provided by Annie. Also, all information is found on the website

listed above along with opportunities to sit in on a webinar to learn more. This is a great opportunity to our local employers! Annie can be reached directly at [anniew@umbc.edu](mailto:anniew@umbc.edu)

- ACM Technology building renovation update, Christina Kilduff  
ACM's VP of Administration and Finance, Christina Kilduff, joined the meeting to share the vision of the Tech building renovation on ACM's campus. The building renovations will create a technologically and visually iconic building that enhances student learning by addressing and anticipating current and future workforce needs, as well providing flexible space for student engagement, active learning, and community use. She asked the group to provide some feedback on features to consider in the project and several shared some ideas. Phase I of the renovation, which includes a new two story entryway, will be complete by January and Autumn will plan to schedule a future meeting in the Tech building to tour the updates.
- P-TECH Update and Breakfast seminars, Melissa Kaye  
Melissa shared updates on the freshman and sophomore cohorts and asked for volunteers for the Student Breakfast seminars for the year. She still has openings in the 12/11, 2/13, and 3/12 seminar dates. To sign up, please use the Google docs sheet:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17Dqp4Zg6AmUXuYJplhWkkVskLh70ulkWOkhN2vLdk/edit?usp=sharing>

- 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 remaining. The biggest need now is for volunteers to mentor additional teams. Additionally, REACT is continuing their pursuit of physical space. Everyone is invited to their Annual Meeting and Sponsor Recognition on November 26 at FSU, Gira Center, from 6-8pm. Attached is a flier outlining the event. Finally, REACT is also in need of volunteers to judge the First Lego League Western MD Tournament (also held at FSU on 12/8). A note from REACT:  
*Hello Potential Judges!*

*This year our qualifier will be at Frostburg State University on Saturday, December 8. We'll need judges to arrive by 8:00am and stay through the Awards Ceremony which hopefully will conclude by 3:00pm, but we'll understand if you have to leave early. We need as many as judges as we can get - we've grown to 27 teams from Allegany and Garrett County!*

*This year's FLL Challenge Theme is "Into Orbit" - celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11. FLL teams are designing solutions to the robot challenge as well as coming up with a 5 minute presentation on their solution to a problem astronauts face during extended space travel.*

*We'll have light breakfast stuff as well as providing lunch.*

*Judging categories include Robot or Technical judging (how well the team can explain their robot design and strategy), Core Values Judging (how well the team understands [FIRST Core Values](#)) and Project Judging (How well teams researched the [Project Challenge](#) and shared their solution)*

*We appreciate so much those that have volunteered in the past and hoping for even more judges this year and another wonderful event on Dec 8. [Click here to signup as a judge for this year](#). Even if you can't help out this year, but maybe next year, fill out the form and check the box indicating such.*

*It would be super great to have responses in by Wednesday, Nov 21... this year all judges are going to have to go through a painless background check - simple and quick process, but necessary.*

*Questions? Reply to this email or you can call/text Pam at [301-616-3232](tel:301-616-3232) or Chuck at 301-616-3231.*

- **New Funding update!**

We were awarded our full \$566,000 request from DLLR and our new grant award begins 1/1/19. We have our work cut out for us in terms of defining our project schedule and delivering all the training we requested funding for. Employers are urged to complete the survey Autumn has sent which outlines their preference for number of seats and timeframe for training delivery. The survey can be accessed here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y3R3KKQ>

- **Tech at the Gap update**

2018 was certainly our banner year as we were up in attendee headcount and sponsorship money raised. Please see the attached evaluations for attendee feedback.

**We have also determined our date for 2019: October 10, 2019. Please mark your calendars now!**

- **Current Budget Status**

Overall, we are under budget in this current grant cycle by roughly \$30,000. This is attributed to Tech at the Gap 2017 being largely under budget along with several other trainings including Incident Response, CEH, and Windows Server (the latter by smaller margins). We need to reallocate this funding and spend it prior to June 30, 2019. Autumn has scheduled an additional module of CompTIA Security+ training due to high employer demand. The training will be delivered 12/3- 12/7/18 from 8:30am- 4:30pm each day. A few seats remain in the course and employers should contact Autumn asap to secure a seat.

- **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 are doing well in the program. Students will complete six training modules to give them the skills required for the entry level IT workforce. Or, 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](http://www.allegany.edu/excelerate)  
Plans are underway to offer the program again in 2019- 2020.

- Quarterly Reports  
Autumn distributed the most recent quarterly reports submitted to DLLR on 10/15/18. If any partner has questions or needs additional copies, please contact Autumn.
- NEXT MEETING: Late January 2019