

WEST VIRGINIA

BRIDGING THE GAP CONSORTIUM

TAACCCT ROUND 3

YEAR 3, QUARTER 2 SUMMARY



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## BRIDGING THE GAP CONSORTIUM SPOTLIGHTS

### CONSORTIUM SPOTLIGHTS

The following excerpts highlight notable best practices and distinctive grant activities from each college in the *Bridging the Gap* consortium.

#### BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

- Staff at Blue Ridge continue to find ways to improve course offerings and student experiences with creative and technological solutions. Staff are currently focusing on creating new capstone experiences that relate directly to industry needs, working to ensure that their 14 online and hybrid course offerings meet Quality Matters standards, using the World of Work Inventory (WOWi) to help students in their career search, and using a CRM to manage their grant sector contacts. These latter solutions help staff meet student needs while also freeing up staff time to work on other pressing issues.
- Staff have worked to imbed a CDL preparation program into their Energy program allowing students to test for and gain their CDL. While students previously were able to take a course helping them prepare for the CDL as part of the Energy program, students are now able to graduate with their license. This embedded certification allows students to be more marketable and valuable to potential employers upon graduation.

#### BRIDGEVALLEY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

- BridgeValley continues to find new ways to accommodate veterans at their institution. In the past semester, the college has hosted four veteran workshops to educate veteran students on their VA benefits. BridgeValley's focus on veteran students has led to 72 veterans receiving benefits at BridgeValley to date, with 85 percent retention of those benefits.
- More recently, the college has established a partnership with the Kanawha County Veterans Court, based on drug treatment and mental health treatment courts, to expand and increase recruitment efforts for veterans. Since the establishment of the recent partnership, two students have enrolled in BridgeValley programs.

#### EASTERN COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

- Staff at Eastern have completed their first analysis of the new developmental education offerings and have found significant improvements for groups of students. While the data reveals different levels of improvement for different groups of students, completing the analysis of their co-requisite model is a major step forward as it will allow the school to make informed decisions on their developmental education program.
- Staff at Eastern continue to report positive outcomes from their use of online tutoring opportunities for students. Students are utilizing the tutor.com service made available through grant funds, allowing them to get help at any time of day from wherever they are. Colleges with students who may not be able to make traditional tutoring offerings can explore this or other online tutoring options to meet student needs.

### **MOUNTWEST COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

- To ease the transition from high school to college and reduce the number of classes required in a semester, Mountwest has encouraged students enrolled in the IT fast-track program to start classes one semester early. Students choosing to participate in this opportunity – three out of eight in the new cohort – will work to take their general education courses during the spring semester and will meet with peer coaches regularly to ensure they are adjusting to college courses appropriately. The students choosing to opt out of this opportunity will begin their regular coursework in the summer. Mountwest grant staff anticipate that this mode will allow students to be more successful in the accelerated IT program as they are more adjusted to the structure of college courses.
- Grant staff reported a new technique to ease the transition into college for IT fast-track students. Staff reported that students can become overwhelmed by the number and fast pace of courses offered through the fast-track program. It is anticipated that allowing IT fast-track students to complete their general education courses prior to program start could alleviate this feeling. This semester, nearly half of the students enrolled in the program took advantage of this opportunity.

### **NEW RIVER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

- Grant staff have reported an increased focus on sustainability beyond the grant. The college's President has indicated interest in sustaining programmatic components and will continue to meet with grant staff to finalize a sustainability plan moving forward. Grant staff indicated receiving a number of grants that will help sustain programmatic components beyond the grant and will continue to explore other sustainability options with the full support of the President.

### **PIERPONT COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

- Staff at Pierpont are focusing outreach and recruitment efforts on overcoming the stigma that many in the region associate with technical programs and community colleges. Staff note that many parents and students in the area think that their only option to be successful is to attend a four year college. Staff are working on advertisements to help dispel this myth and show that a technical degree can lead to a reliable and well-paying career.
- Pierpont staff continue to conduct outreach to the veteran population in their area and report a recent boost in veteran student enrollment. Staff see this as a result of increased efforts around articulating prior learning into credits for veterans, with approximately 10 students recently receiving credits through PLAs. Staff plan to build on these efforts through a creative outreach campaign using geographic data to specifically target veterans with online and mobile advertisements for the college.

### **SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

- In the past semester, the student counselor and peer coaches have been relocated to part of the Student Services department. Since the move, Southern WV grant staff reported that the student counselor and peer coaches have been assisting more students. Grant staff believe that the move into the Student Services department has made the student counselor and peer coaches more visible and accessible to students, especially those from other campuses. As of January 2016, the student counselor and peer coaches are serving 86 active participants compared to 45 active participants in January 2015.
- Southern WV has worked to establish a partnership with Excelsior College – an online college that focuses on experiential learning and non-traditional pathways. Both colleges will work to establish articulation agreements for online IT pathways. Southern WV has distributed curriculum to

Excelsior College to determine how the two can develop a crosswalk. Grant staff anticipate that this partnership will be very beneficial in reaching students outside of their service area.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA NORTHERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

- Staff are taking advantage of the grant opportunity through CTCS to create an accelerated Chemical Operator program. The program will allow students to obtain an associate's degree in less than a year. The program also allows Northern to expand grant efforts to a campus that up until now, had not reportedly benefited directly from the BTG grant.
- Staff are streamlining course offerings between the petroleum and mechatronics programs to allow students in both programs to take identical courses in their first year. This offers multiple benefits to the college and students, allowing less faculty to teach more classes, students to study another field without taking additional time, and also for students to interact with those in another program. Colleges should explore where this might be a possibility in their programs in order to streamline services and offer students more options.

#### **WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AT PARKERSBURG**

- WVUP grant staff reported an increased focus in shorter-term certificate programs to expedite student time in the classroom and increase affordability. Existing courses and scheduling are being modified to accommodate these short-term programs. Although the college is facing obstacles in justifying the addition of programs due to college-wide low enrollment, grant staff indicated that development and implementation of these programs will be moving forward.
- As a statewide movement, WVUP has been working to implement an online bachelor's degree pathways that will be developed by the college but also utilized throughout the state. The program will target management and will be offered through the Business department. The need for this program surfaced from a number of discussions with local industry and will be beneficial to colleges and potential students throughout the state.

The following section outlines programmatic updates for each of the nine BTG colleges from January and March 2016.

## **BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

### **TECHNICAL PROGRAMS**

#### **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING**

##### **January**

The Advanced Manufacturing program is implementing online offerings for Systematic Troubleshooting and have found a curriculum vendor to create the course. Within this program, staff seek to provide an open-entry, accelerated option to students. Aspects of this curriculum will be piloted in traditional classrooms this semester, with a projected start day for the online program in August or September. In addition, staff are exploring a robotics program.

Blue Ridge has begun holding information sessions with Proctor and Gamble and will host these on a monthly basis. Staff are working with P&G to meet their needs and anticipate the creation of a new certification, including a possible track specifically for the company.

##### **March**

Staff report that the Mechatronics program is focusing on open-entry course formats and are working to implement these with help from the RFP put out by the central office. Staff are working to put all of the lecture components of courses online and providing open lab times for students. Students will go through a series of lectures and online simulations and then participate in the lab component as their schedule permits. Staff report that faculty will likely need professional development on offering these courses and making materials available to students. Staff also report that the open-entry model fits the needs of Proctor and Gamble and should help facilitate the new mechatronics programs being developed with P&G. Other companies interested in the format include Macys, Chempak, Chekpot, Quad Graphics, and Randox, each of which sponsors an internship program with the college.

#### **ENERGY**

##### **January**

The EUT program has retained a number of students into the spring semester, and the EDET program is exploring more curriculum re-mapping for the fall semester.

##### **March**

Staff report that a complete CDL course has been added to the Energy program, allowing students to receive their CDL as part of their participation in the program. Previously, students only took a CDL prep course that provided foundations in operating these vehicles, but not a test. In partnership with James Rumsey Technical Institute, the revised course grants the CDL certification as part of the coursework, allowing students to graduate with a certificate that will improve their employment prospects.

Dominion Power, one of the primary employers for the EDET program, has developed a scholarship beginning in Fall 2016 that will provide students with 5,000 dollars towards their college and guarantee their employment upon graduation. So far, 29 graduates have been hired by Dominion power.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### January

Currently, a focus of the IT sector lead at Blue Ridge is procuring workshops to train instructors to develop Capstone courses, provide lab opportunities for remote students, and increase competency-based learning offerings for students. The IT sector is also exploring the purchase of a Netlab appliance that will help in providing remote students with distance learning opportunities and gamification infused learning.

### March

Staff in the IT program are working to create the college's first entirely online program online program. The college received approval for completely online programs two years ago. This program will have a Security+ industry certification embedded in the 30-hour certificate and the 60-hour degree.

As IT sector lead, staff are developing a Budget Action Plan to utilize funds available for professional development. These funds will likely be utilized to host workshops for the consortium during the summer focusing on building students' skill sets that will help them in real world scenarios.

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### January

Staff at Blue Ridge are making strides in career services by implementing the World of Work Inventory (WOWi). Staff report working on integrating academic advising with career assessment, referring additional students to career services, and administering the assessment to new students. Staff have also developed a database using the Insightly CRM to manage grant sector contacts. In addition to these, staff are assisting students in more traditional areas including resume development, interview training, and job search best practices.

Staff continue to provide BEACON services, advising students on courses and aiding in developing class schedules.

### March

Staff have hired a new Job Placement Specialist to fill a vacancy. Additionally, career services has expanded to include the WOWi, to help students identify their skills and interests. Certain courses have also implemented this assessment into their coursework to assist students with clearly identifying a good degree choice.

Staff are looking to expand networking events but are limited under their current budget and await the budget modifications to be approved. Staff are focusing currently on an IT event including mock interviews that will allow industry professionals to give students real world experience.

In addition to the information being collected on students as part of the intake form, an additional google form has been sent to students to request information that the DOL is interested in that was previously missing from the intake form. Staff are seeking the best way to get this information from students.

In addition to these efforts, staff continue to work with students and provide guidance.



## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### January

Staff are continuing to offer developmental English courses with real world applications and a Technical Writing course that is closely aligned with industry needs. Developmental math courses are continuing to be updated to include more real world applications.

### March

Staff are creating online boot camps for students and have completed the recording of the math materials. While they are still editing and revising this material, students have access to certain modules.

A lab for the English 101 class to provide students in need of developmental education with additional assistance was introduced this semester and results were positive. Staff are reviewing possible changes to the English 110 lab offering as well.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### January

The primary grant-related efforts regarding outreach have focused on the Proctor and Gamble sessions. These efforts have been highly successful with over 120 students attending sessions to date. Staff continue outreach via job fairs and other community outreach as well, such as attending a job fair in Martinsburg held in partnership with Senator Joe Manchin and Workforce WV.

### March

Despite outreach being limited due to the budget, staff are working to let students know the opportunities that are available, specifically around online courses. Within IT, there is a good deal of government industry in the area prompting staff to advertise their IT courses including the certifications available through the program. Staff are combining this with the availability of online coursework to complete the certification, especially for individuals who may already have a degree but need a specific certification. One trend that staff have noticed in the area is an increase of students with bachelor's degrees returning to obtain a certificate or associates degree in a particular skill set in IT.

Staff are utilizing the upcoming partnership with Proctor and Gamble as a selling point for their mechatronics program, as well as the many other internship opportunities available with companies in the area. The goal for the fall is to recruit 120 students for summer and fall sessions into degree and certificate programs. There are currently approximately fifty students in the program, so this would be a marked increase. Staff anticipate that not all of the students entering the Proctor and Gamble track will qualify and seek to provide alternative offerings for these individuals to retain them at the college.

In addition to these efforts, staff are recruiting for the EUT program in line with the efforts of First Energy, and staff are working to hold a Careers in Energy Week to promote the EDET program.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### January

Staff have engaged in a number of activities to improve sector partnerships including Proctor and Gamble information sessions, meetings with FirstEnergy, workforce convenings, chamber of commerce events, and other networking events. Some of the results of these efforts include internship opportunities with Quad Graphics, Radox, and NASA. Finally, Blue Ridge CTC is scheduling customized training for Macy's to provide advanced electrical and PLC trainings.

### March

Staff are pursuing and continuing a number of partnerships with industry. Prominent amongst these are partnerships with Proctor and Gamble, Quad Graphics, First Energy, and Dominion. Staff are also exploring a partnership with Altec to create a certificate program focused on mechatronics and possibly including online and open lab offerings. Staff are also conducting a training with the Air National Guard on base.

## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Based on our discussion, the following successes and challenges have been identified to date.

- The Proctor and Gamble partnership is getting off the ground and students are very interested in the program.
- Technological solutions are serving Blue Ridge well, with the WOWi inventory providing opportunities to students to improve their job search and a new CRM helping the college contact partners.
- Staff are continuing the implementation of hybrid and online offerings for 14 courses at Blue Ridge. This includes ensuring that courses meet Quality Matters requirements.
- Staff are also working to provide videos to courses to provide innovative learning opportunities for areas as varied as technical math to safety training.
- Staff now have less work to do in preparation for the DOL site visit due to their creation of individual files on each participant. While staff still have work to do to prepare for the visit, this has greatly decreased the administrative burden for staff.
- Grant staff are taking advantage of grant funds and new RFP opportunities to create online and accelerated learning options for students.
- The imbedding of a CDL within the energy program has made students more marketable to potential employers.

# BRIDGEVALLEY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

#### January

BridgeValley is working to establish partnerships with employers to develop internship programs for students. BridgeValley grant staff reported a number of partnerships (e.g., Advanced Technical Solutions) that have led to internship placements for students. Grant staff also reported receiving funds for three Learn-and-Earn programs.

In addition, BridgeValley grant staff reported increased focus on the development of hybrid courses to expedite student time to completion.

#### March

Recently, IT faculty have been focusing on agreements with local businesses and employers to establish learn-and-earn programs for students. These businesses include: Advanced Technical Solutions, Frontier Communication, and the West Virginia Office of Technology.

IT is currently working with adult education to set up career pathway courses. This will allow students to transition from adult education to technical programs developing skills, content knowledge, and learning strategies to be successful in college or employment.

### ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND ENERGY

#### January

A number of programmatic developments have occurred in the Advanced Manufacturing program including near completion of the Welding shop, development of a Mechanical Machining course, and completion of a CNC lab, which will be utilized by the Machine Tool program. Grant staff are also looking into an accelerated format for the Welding program to expedite student time to certification.

BridgeValley grant staff also reported a focus on developing partnerships with local employers for internship programs. In partnership with Toyota, BridgeValley staff are looking to streamline the application process for internships as well as redesign marketing materials.

#### March

Advanced Manufacturing faculty have been working to implement an accelerated Welding skillset that launched in Spring 2016, which will be offered again in the summer and fall. This program will offer both academic credit and non-academic credit options. The non-academic side will provide students with a skillset rather than a degree over the course of 12 weeks.

A Welding CAS program has been created and will be discussed among the Academic Standard Committee meeting for approval. This program will offer an introduction to all welding processes, expediting a path to entry-level jobs. A Welding AAS program is also going to be discussed among the Academic Standard Committee meeting for approval. This degree pathway was revised in conjunction with the CAS degree program to expedite a path to entry-level jobs.

BridgeValley staff also anticipate training for 3D modeling in the Machine Tool program, targeting electrical and mechanical processes. In addition, the Machine Tool program continues to offer

accelerated programs and will graduate another cohort in the next month. This cohort completed the accelerated program in less than one year. A second cohort will complete the accelerated program in the summer.

## CONSTRUCTION

### January

Two additional courses are now being offered in the Construction Management program. BridgeValley grant staff also reported exploring unique pathways for high school students, which is still in preliminary discussions.

### March

A pathway is being developed in the Construction Management program to embed NCCER and CTE certifications, which will subsequently fall into a degree program. The degree program will incorporate a pathway to support construction trade apprenticeships, NCCER certification training, and CTE training programs. Grant staff anticipate that this will expedite program completion for individuals already in the construction trade. The program is currently awaiting approval by the Academic Standard Committee.

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### January

Grant staff are looking into ways to meet the needs of dislocated miners through targeted pathways to success. These students are being asked to meet with peer coaches four times per semester to ensure that they are receiving the services necessary to succeed. BridgeValley grant staff reported that 85 percent of students meeting with peer coaches at least four times per semester passed their courses with a “C” or better. Lower results were present for students having less contact with the peer coaches.

The peer coaches have hosted a number of college-wide events targeting stress management, domestic violence, and mental wellness. This semester, peer coaches have met with new students during their orientation to help them with their schedules and navigating their first week at the college. Four veteran workshops also took place last semester to educate veteran students on their VA benefits. To date, 72 veterans are receiving benefits at BridgeValley, with 85 percent retention of benefits.

BridgeValley grant staff also reported working with Aspen WV to provide free suicide training for faculty and students. This training was also provided to the institution’s peer coaches, who received a certification following the training.

Career services reported over 120 student users, 23 alumni users, and 101 registered employers with 26 tied to BTG in the College Central Network. Career services also offered two career fairs and reported successful attendance of students and employers.

### March

Student support services staff have attended two veteran career fairs this semester as well as other events including: Workforce Region 2 and 3 monthly meetings, two workforce information career fairs (occurring this month), and a rapid response event in response to layoffs at local coal mines.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### January

Tracking placements of students to ensure they are placed in the appropriate courses has been a priority for BridgeValley grant staff. Staff reported that they were able to improve the course placement for technical students by getting them into a college-level course with a one credit-hour co-requisite. Grant staff also revised the placement table based on recommendations from technical faculty to create consistent placement procedures and policies. BridgeValley grant staff are also working with ABE partners to set dates for upcoming boot camps.

### March

Fall and summer schedules for developmental education courses have been finalized. In addition, grant staff reported modifying the delivery method for an English course that integrates reading and writing, which will be sequenced with other English content. The math department has also created a one credit-hour trigonometry course offered as a pre-requisite or co-requisite to students that may require additional assistance. Developmental education staff will be updating placement guidelines to include these modifications.

Grant staff also reported developing an assessment for student success in math and English, a lower level course offered through adult education, and will be preparing an MOU with adult education to begin this process.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### January

The BTG recruiter has begun to explore different student recruitment opportunities (i.e., halfway houses) for BTG recruitment.

### March

An MOU with Kanawha County Veterans Court, based on drug treatment and mental health treatment courts, was developed with two students from the Veteran's Court now enrolled in a program at BridgeValley. With that partnership in mind, BridgeValley has continued expanding partnerships to develop an MOU with Putnam County Court so participants can obtain a degree while in prison.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### January

BridgeValley grant staff reported increased participation in sector meetings as staff explore ways to connect employers to the institution. A number of local employers have expressed need to fill available jobs at their company and BridgeValley anticipates responding to these needs.

### March

Advisory meetings in Advanced Manufacturing have taken place this semester as well as a sector meeting in Advanced Manufacturing and Energy. A consortium meeting for Advanced Manufacturing to facilitate on-the-job-training opportunities will be discussed in conjunction with local manufacturers.

The IT sector meeting is scheduled for the end of March.

## SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Based on our discussions with BridgeValley, the following successes and challenges have been identified to date.

- + BridgeValley grant staff are increasing focus to the development of partnerships with local employers to establish internship programs. This has proven beneficial as students participating in internships have reportedly obtained jobs from these employers.
- + Programmatic development is continuing as a number of facilities are being developed (i.e., Welding shop and CNC lab) to house the new BTG programs.
- + BridgeValley continues to modify course and support service structures to accommodate veteran needs.

## ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Based on our discussions with BridgeValley, the following updates have been identified.

- BridgeValley grant staff are hosting a training session for BTG colleges on Quality Matters to assist individuals in applying and completing the rubric. A number of colleges throughout the consortium will attend.
- A structure has been finalized for uploading content into Skills Commons consortium-wide. This structure allows information to be uploaded by a single individual, streamlining the process. Marketing materials from the consortium colleges will be uploaded to Skills Commons first.

## **EASTERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

### **TECHNICAL PROGRAMS**

#### **GENERAL**

##### **January**

The new Dean of Workforce and Career Technology is working to embed certification tests into courses. This is the final step in a three part process of aligning course material to the certifications, offering certification tests to students, and imbedding them as part of the program. The dean will write the policy for imbedding the fees for the test into the course and seek approval by the beginning of next school year.

Staff are still seeking to fill the fulltime professor position for Information Technology, but have not had any qualified candidates apply to date. The college will keep the position open. Staff are also seeking to hire an Outcomes Specialist to analyze information from Data Analytics. Staff are looking to fill this position and are in contact with staff at the central office regarding how labor will be divided.

Staff will participate in a Data Analytics orientation on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. The original training was scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup>, but was rescheduled due to the snowstorm.

#### **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING/ENERGY**

##### **March**

Hampered by the resignation of the dean of Technical Studies, staff at Eastern are getting to a point where they can again make progress on grant goals. Staff are working to embed NCCER assessments into the Wind and Electromechanical program. Their goal is to imbed the cost of these tests into the cost of the course to encourage students to take the assessment exams and thus have a chance to receive the credential. Taking the assessments is currently optional, but staff seek to make this mandatory for next year. Staff are exploring doing the same for PMMI certifications, but are hesitant due to cost.

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

##### **March**

Progress on the Information Technology programs has been similarly hampered by the resignation of the only full time faculty member in the program. Recently however, staff have been working to inform IT students of the MTA assessments and encourage them to take these assessments.

### **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

##### **January**

The college is continuing to roll out the Eastern Advocates program and staff are hearing positive feedback from students regarding tutor.com. Students are using the service, which is an improvement over a previous tutoring system that was discontinued due to lack of use.

##### **March**

Staff report that the tutor.com service is being very well utilized, with a recent spike in usage. Staff also report that student feedback has overall been positive. Staff are concerned about the ability to provide support to students in light of upcoming state budget cuts to the community college system. This may

cause the college to shift more from peer tutors to online tutoring due to the success they have seen to date as well as the remote nature of much of the student body. The college will still retain the in-person coaching available to students through Eastern Advocates, but questions and guidance on specific subjects can be addressed by tutor.com.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### January

Staff have completed a preliminary report on the outcomes of the co-requisite model for students. While staff would like to wait for additional data before making decisions, initial results show improvement for students utilizing the new model, with varying degrees of improvement.

### March

Staff are moving toward a 100 percent co-requisite model. Staff are reviewing the data from this semester in order to determine how best to move forward.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### January

Eastern has received 296 referrals from the local WIB, but are unsure how many of these have been to BTG programs as compared to other programs at the college. Eastern has hired a new career services coordinator to fill in after a recent retirement. A primary goal of the new staff member is to increase student interaction with career services, with different potential strategies including moving his desk to the Student Center to increase face-to-face interaction, sending emails twice a month with job opening information and references to career services, and creating a Career Center link on the Eastern webpage.

Staff have worked with a company to produce videos for commercials and online advertising. Staff are targeting rollout soon so that they can be used for the spring marketing campaign.

A date has been finalized for the collaborative recruiting event and concert with County Music Television; the concert will take place on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

### March

Staff are focusing heavily on the CMT Empowering Education Initiative to be held on May 20<sup>th</sup>, an event that will target Veterans and adult learners. Staff see the concert and event as a good opportunity to promote BTG programs. Additionally, staff report that their Student Bridge promotional videos will be used starting this April as a part of their new marketing campaign.



## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### January

The third party company Pegasus is conducting a gaps analysis of the partners in the area and providing feedback. Staff will continue contacting companies, but the early months of the year tend to be slower for this. Staff are working to reenroll students for the College 101 programs and efforts around the Partnerships to Possibilities program will increase in the spring as more funding becomes available.

### March

Staff held their most recent District Consortium Economic Development meeting in January and will hold their next meeting in coordination with the CMT event on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Staff plan to expand the event to include legislators, making this the DCED's First Annual Legislator Invitational. The goal of the event will be to explore current issues in the workforce and how to best move forward on these. Staff will also be participating in the Tour de Workforce, which will divide the six counties they serve into areas to promote the college by going door-to-door to businesses to help promote participation in regional sectors as these relationships tend to be limited only to major companies in the area.

In January, staff had a collaboration session with the local workforce board to discuss ways to expand career services. A staff member will begin to send email blitzes to BTG students sharing local jobs and job information. Additionally, this staff member will be relocated to a more public place to hopefully increase traffic flow and student interaction. Once the WIB's webpage is updated, the WIB will work to create a contract in order to help the college create a job service webpage.

Staff recently met with Work America, a start-up company that facilitates free partnerships with colleges to create a job portal to connect employers and employees. Staff are early in this partnership but are excited about the possibilities it could offer students.

## SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Based on our discussion, the following successes and challenges have been identified to date.

- + Student use of tutor.com has been very encouraging to grant staff, particularly in light of the lack of use surrounding previous online tutoring efforts.
- + Staff are continuing to look into hybrid, online, and remote offerings for courses. Staff report that the lack of a fulltime faculty member has prohibited action on some of these items, but view the current offerings for their Energy, Wind, and Electro-Mechanical courses as fitting the needs of students. The new Dean of Workforce and Career Tech will be reexamining capstone courses to ensure that these include simulations, projects, and experiences that are relevant to their field.
- + Meeting with the local Workforce Investment Board has given staff the opportunity to grow their career services by collaborating around creative ways to reach students.
- + Staff report that Tutor.com has proven to be a useful asset to students, and that usage has exceeded their expectations. Staff speculate that this is due to the remote nature of many of their students and that the online help allows them to study at their own pace.
- Potential cuts to the state budget have college and grant staff concerned about the long-term sustainability of programs.
- Staff continue to make up for lost time due to the transition of the Dean of Technical Studies and the sole fulltime IT faculty member which occurred earlier in the school year.

# MOUNTWEST COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

#### January

To ease the transition to college for high school students and reduce the number of classes that students are required to take in a semester, Mountwest has allowed the students entering the accelerated IT program to start classes early. Out of the eight students that were pre-identified for the fast-track IT program, three chose to participate in early courses. The remainder of the students will begin courses in the summer. The three students currently enrolled in courses are also receiving assistance from the peer coaches to ensure they are adjusting appropriately. If this structure for the IT fast-track program is successful, Mountwest staff will continue offering early courses.

#### March

Continued from the last discussion, Mountwest began enrolling students into general education courses prior to the IT fast-track program start date. As a clarification, this opportunities is not only targeting high school students, but all students that want to make their transition into college easier. Of those students enrolled in the summer IT fast-track program, nearly half reportedly took advantage of this opportunity and are excelling in their general education courses. These students will have fewer courses to complete in the summer, will have the opportunity to register early for their summer classes, and work with financial aid earlier in the semester to ensure their finances are in place. Once this cohort begins the program in the summer, they will be the last cohort funded through BTG before the grant ends.

A math course for the IT program was also developed and will be offered as an open entry, open exit model. Grant staff anticipate that this course will be launched in Fall 2016, which will allow students to work at their own pace.

### ENGINEERING DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

#### January

Mountwest grant staff reported receiving the award letter for the accelerated Engineering Design Technology program with full implementation of the program expected in Fall 2016. The modified program will incorporate a lab and AutoCAD and 3-D skillsets for a one-year certificate. In addition, the program will be set up in a cohort model so students are able to take courses alongside general education courses and the lab with block scheduling. The program will also be an open entry, open exit model where students can start the program at any point in the 16-week period with at least six weeks remaining. This program will be ideal for those that are currently in the field but may not have certifications.

#### March

Currently, five students are enrolled in this program and are utilizing the open lab concept (i.e., working at their own pace). Peer coaches and faculty are also monitoring these students to ensure they can complete the program on time. However, grant staff do not anticipate any issues arising.

Grant staff reported the purchase of a ceramic printer that will be used in partnership local business and industry. Local businesses will assist MCTC grant staff in determining safety measures for this printer.<sup>1</sup>

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### January

The BTG peer coaches continue to monitor student progress through regular communication with the students. With the addition of the Engineering Design Technology fast-track program, Mountwest has identified two additional peer coaches that will provide assistance in the lab with the adjunct instructor.

### March

A peer coach has been hired for the EDET program and is working with the other peer coaches to assist students through their program. Currently, there are three peer coaches funded through the grant.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### January

The fully implemented co-requisite continues to be successful. Mountwest grant staff reported a recent focus on building co-requisite courses into the Engineering Design Technology program.

### March

Grant staff have finalized boot camps that will be offered in the summer. Because the boot camps were successful in the past, staff do not anticipate making modifications to the format and structure.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### January

Mountwest grant staff reported an increased focus on recruitment efforts targeting veterans. Staff have attended four recruiting events for veterans and have created a Veteran's Club on campus.

### March

The recruiter has been working closely with local businesses to establish relationships and partnerships with the college. The recruiter reported an increased interest in the Engineering Design Technology program.

Grant staff also reported an increased focus on veteran outreach. Grant staff have discussed potential recruiting opportunities and are now leveraging resources with the Veteran Coordinator to recruit together. In addition, veteran-focused events have been scheduled for the next five months including National Guard events. With these events scheduled, grant staff reported that recruitment efforts have doubled.

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<sup>1</sup> The ceramic printer differs from the 3D printer in the sense that it can use diverse materials for printing.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### January

A part-time Employer Outreach Specialist has been hired and tasked with following sector-based strategies requirements. The next sector meeting will be in April.

### March

The recently hired Employer Outreach Specialist has developed a list of employers and has been working to contact these employers to identify needs (i.e., hiring, training, skill needs, etc.). The specialist has also been working with staff and Board members to identify relationships that have not been utilized, working with Mark Julian, planned a sector meeting for May, and has hired two people to help in these efforts. These hires are currently being trained.

## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Based on our discussions with Mountwest, the following successes and challenges have been identified to date.

- + Two Mountwest faculty are PLA certified with a prior learning webpage launching soon.
- + Development in the Engineering Design Technology program continues with an anticipated launch of Fall 2016.
- + Recent high school graduates are taking advantage of the opportunity to take IT fast-track courses early to reduce the course load and ease the transition for the students from high school. If this proves to be beneficial, Mountwest grant staff plan to continue offering this opportunity.

## ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Based on our discussions with Mountwest, the following updates have been identified.

- Grant staff will soon be working to establish an open entry, open exit-style course for the EDET program.

## NEW RIVER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

### TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

#### WELDING

##### March

The short-term Welding program began this month, including an embedded math course. The curriculum was recently modified and sent through the curriculum committee to add the math course. In addition, grant staff reported streamlining career pathways available in the Welding sector at New River to one associate degree. Previously, the two programs were Pipe Welding and Structural Welding but these have been combined into a single Welding Technology program that includes courses from each program.

New River grant staff also indicated that they received a Perkins grant affording the college the opportunity to purchase \$80,000 of new equipment for the Welding program.

#### ELECTRO-MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTATION

##### March

A contextualized English course was approved by the curriculum committee within the accelerated program. The EMI program initially started in October, with a new group of students beginning the program this month.

In addition, the college received a state grant that has afforded the EMI program the opportunity to update equipment. New River was approached by the Chancellor about this opportunity and was recently awarded the grant.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

##### March

IT faculty reported adapting simulations into the program for traditional courses in the past couple of months.

#### LINE SERVICE AND EDET

##### March

The Line Service program launched its first cohort for the accelerated format, which will begin in the summer for 12 weeks. The program targets dislocated miners and will likely include around 20 students. The structure of the program has allowed for one cohort per year for the past three years. Students completing this program receive a skillset and industry recognized certifications and will not be required to complete English and math courses.

The part-time instructional designer that was recently hired will be working in the Line Service program to develop online coursework in Blackboard.

### STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

##### March

The most up-to-date list of BTG students has been distributed to the peer coaches, who are now reaching out to these students to provide assistance and/or connect them with campus resources (i.e., tutors). The peer coaches are also assisting the college at events such as the Utility and Technology Expo, which will highlight BTG programs, and a Line Service Rodeo as well as other events.

The counselors have been working this semester with the Workforce Development Board for marketing purposes and has worked with the Line Service program cohort to offer a workshop titled, “Bringing Your A-Game to Work.” This workshop targets interpersonal and soft skills for the workplace, which grant staff anticipate would be useful for Welding and EMI students as well.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### March

No new updates were available for developmental education besides that these courses will now be referred to as Foundations courses rather than developmental education courses.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### March

A recently hired college recruiter will reportedly work with BTG instructors to coordinate recruitment efforts moving forward. Instructors have been working to recruit for BTG programs since the last college recruiter left the institution. Welding instructors, in particular, have used welding simulators as a recruitment tool at different events.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS STRATEGIES

### March

A number of partnerships have been established, providing BTG students with learn-and-earn opportunities and the college with additional students through employer trainings. In addition, sector strategy meetings have taken place to establish additional partnerships for BTG programs.

A recent meeting was held in collaboration with the local Chamber of Commerce to focus on allied health professions as they were identified as need in the area.

## ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Based on our discussions with New River, the following updates have been identified.

- The PLA policy recently developed was approved by the college and Faculty Senate.
- Grant staff have also worked with the college’s President to establish a sustainability plan moving beyond the grant. This plan is still in development.

## **PIERPONT COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

### **TECHNICAL PROGRAMS**

#### **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING/ENERGY**

##### **January**

Staff are seeking to add a gas flow management and pipeline corrosion program in June. This program will be funded with the help of a grant opportunity through the central office. Despite production being down, delivery and transportation jobs are in need and growing, warranting the addition of the program. Staff will run these programs on the non-credit side of the college until the new curriculum can be sent through the curriculum review committee, a process that takes approximately nine months.

##### **March**

Staff are currently working to develop an accelerated program and ensure that money is available to pay faculty to teach a pipeline course that will likely start in June or July. Staff have not yet developed curriculum on this course but know topically where they would like to take the course; there may be existing materials already available for this type of course.

A gas measurement program will be offered in the fall as a non-credit course under the Southern Gas Association. Staff also recently held an internship event for the midstream oil and gas program. Approximately 50 students from Pierpont, with Longview Power, FirstEnergy, and Markwest being among the potential employers. Enrollment in the program is currently 59 with, 19 new students having started in the fall.

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

##### **January**

Pierpont has recently hired a new IT faculty member who is particularly interested in exploring internships and developing sector partners within this program. Additionally, staff are excited about the opening of the ATC in the I-79 Technology area, with a major priority being to offer online programs out of this center.

##### **March**

Staff are distributing marketing materials to students and employers, generating a lot of interest among students. The Cybersecurity program will be offered this fall. Additionally, online programs will be offered as a selling point for non-traditional students.

### **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

##### **January**

Staff continue to make inroads with veteran populations, with Pierpont's Veteran Coordinator visiting multiple veteran organizations each month to work with and recruit veterans. Specifically, she is working in Harrison and Marion Counties to meet with veterans and explain the opportunities the college has to offer. Brittany is also coordinating with Workforce WV offices to explore the possibility of collaborating on offering career and other services.

## March

Staff are using money in the grant allocated to peer coaching to provide tutoring to students for math and English.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### January

Staff met with a representative at the central office to discuss stretch classes and further efforts to integrate developmental education offerings into credit bearing courses. Staff are exploring implementing 100 percent co-requisite courses as well.

### March

Staff are working to add more contact hours to the programs to accommodate students that have developmental education needs.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### January

Staff are working on providing internships in Advanced Manufacturing and Energy by establishing partnerships with employers in these fields and creating events for employers to get together with students. These meetings include general presentations by staff and then the opportunity for employers to meet with potential interns.

One specific outreach event Pierpont participated in included 100 miners that were invited to an information session. Staff have been invited by the Region 6 WIB to attend a resource fair for laid off coal miners, where staff can discuss TAACCCT for-credit programs with visitors and other services providers.

Staff are also in the middle of the retention campaign, and have been running a radio commercial encouraging students to enroll, letting them know about the resources that are available, and getting them to envision their future. In April the enrollment campaign begins, which targets keeping students enrolled and addressing the stigma of community colleges – that they are not as competitive and rigorous as four-year institutions.

### March

Staff recently hosted an internship fair and had 72 students participate with over nearly 30 employers present. The event was hosted in partnership with Northern and provided both students and employers with a survey to gauge the effectiveness of the job fair and what could be different about a future job fair or, for businesses, what needs they may have. Staff are looking to have another event in the fall.

Staff attended the West Virginia Oil and Gas Association meeting in Charleston and put out marketing materials for employers and students at this event.

Staff report a bump in the veteran student population, attributing the increase to the articulation of prior learning to credit, with about 10 students specifically receiving credit for prior learning. Staff also plan to continue outreach efforts to veterans through geo-fencing in which they will upload addresses of veterans and send advertisements to their mobile devices. Staff will use track responses online and will encourage these individuals to go to the school's website.



## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### January

Sector partnership meetings will be held in April. Pierpont is moving forward with a partnership with Mylan Pharmaceuticals and hoping to get this started before moving into the ATC. Staff are also working with the National Guard WV liaison to make sure that materials are sent around the state.

### March

Staff are developing a partnership with Longview Power to provide students with internships; this would be an addition to the relationships the college already has with utility companies in the area.

Staff are working with the local WIB to help laid-off coal miners. Staff also see this as an opportunity to build upon and maintain the relationship with the WIB developed through the grant.

## SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Based on our discussion, the following successes and challenges have been identified to date.

- + Pierpont will create an accelerated program using funds available from the central office.
- + Opportunities for outreach to former miners are allowing staff to meet new potential students and connect with the local WIB.
- + Pierpont's eLearning Specialist is continuing to work with faculty to provide course offerings online and upload materials to the Skills Commons website. This reflects a broader push across TAACCCT grantees to ensure that all new materials are uploaded to the site to increase accessibility to materials and encourage collaboration among grantees.
- + The partnership with Mylan Pharmaceuticals is moving forward.
- + Cooperative events with partner colleges – Northern – allowed the college to reach more students with an internship/career fair, helping additional students get exposure to employers.
- Staff are working to ensure that they are not missing anything in the required material upload process for Skills Commons. Staff report that this process has been confusing and time consuming.
- Staff have an upcoming monitoring visit requiring them to pull together files for all participants. Staff were not aware of this requirement which has caused a significant time burden for pulling these altogether.

# **SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

## **TECHNICAL PROGRAMS**

### **ELECTRO-MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTATION**

#### **January**

The EMI program has recently admitted a cohort of students including one student. Due to low enrollment in the program, Southern WV grant staff reported that they would wait to start another cohort until they can improve enrollment numbers. Until then, Southern WV anticipates improving student recruitment strategies, especially those targeting dislocated workers.

#### **March**

The EMI program graduated one student in March 2016. This student received an Industrial Technology certificate.

### **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING/WELDING**

#### **January**

Southern WV grant staff reported increased capacity in the program since the start of the grant. In addition, eight students are now enrolled in each course of the Mechatronics program.

#### **March**

Two students will graduate from the Mechatronics program in May and will receive their AAS in Mechatronics Technology. In addition, training has been scheduled for two instructors and they will receive their Siemens certifications, which will allow the instructors to train other instructors and students in the area. Grant staff are also developing an online Fluid Power 1 course, which staff anticipate will be completed by the end of June.

In Welding, an instructor was recently replaced due to the previous instructor being on medical leave. Grant staff report that these changes had no impact on the program's progress.

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

#### **January**

Grant staff reported a need for modification to the IT program including changing the math requirements, shifting the program to an accelerated model, and updating courses to incorporate different components. The IT program is also establishing articulation agreements with multiple programs to offer a 90/30 program through Excelsior in which students obtain a full associates degree from Southern, take 30 hours with Excelsior to equal 90 hours, and then take an additional 30 hours online for a degree.

#### **March**

Grant staff reported that IT courses are being submitted to Quality Matters for review by certified faculty. In addition, the partnership with Excelsior College – an online college that focuses on experiential learning and non-traditional pathways – will result in articulation agreements for pathways in the IT program. Currently, Excelsior College staff have Southern WV's IT curriculum and will review to develop a crosswalk.

Grant staff will also be presenting at the League of Innovation conference on how to transform online courses using gamification concepts.

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### January

Currently, the peer coaches are updating student records including demographic information, contact information, and course information. The peer coaches will also visit classrooms with BTG students to ensure students are aware of the services that the college offers.

In addition, the student counselor and peer coaches have been relocated into the Student Services department. Since the move, grant staff reported that staff are busier as students are locating these support staff more easily. Grant staff also reported that as of January 2016, the counselor and peer coaches are serving 86 active participants compared to 45 active participants in January 2015.

### March

The counselor and peer coaches have been working to pull together BTG participant records and now have all participation agreements collected for students that are currently in BTG programs or were formally in these programs. The peer coaches and counselor have also been working to check midterm grades so they can begin reaching out to students, whether this be to congratulate students receiving satisfactory grades or assist those that require it. To better accommodate the needs of the 96 active students that are being served, grant staff reported plans to hire two new peer coaches.

The peer coaches have also been working with WorkforceWV to rotate student support representatives every Monday. The partnership with WorkforceWV has allowed the peer coaches to use space in their facility for identifying and recruiting students.

Finally, the counselor reported that the Applied and Industrial Technology faculty, Registrar staff, and counselor met to discuss planning and implementing automatic credits for prior learning experience, especially those potential students with certifications.

A comparison of students in TAACCCT-funded courses that take advantage of support services versus students not in these programs, not utilizing these services was conducted. It was found that over the last year, students that utilize support services have a higher GPA, higher retention, and are more likely to continue their education.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### January

Southern WV grant staff reported a recent shift to a co-requisite model, in which 69 percent of students achieved credit compared to 77 percent of students enrolled in traditional courses.

During the transition from the fall to spring semester, two part-time developmental education coordinators ran ACT prep workshops. Grant staff reported that the workshops had high participation rates with 24 students in one workshop and nearly 12 in others. During this time, Mountwest also hosted boot camps with six students enrolled in one of the boot camps.

### March

A number of presentations are taking place (i.e., at the Student Success conference and John Gardner Institute conference) to discuss the co-requisite model and results as well as the boot camps and ACT camps. The ACT camps will continue into the summer with three planned this semester.

Additionally, the Student Success Center will soon house the tutors, providing a resource room for students to complete their work. Between the tutors that are available on each campus, 80 hours of service will be available to students.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### January

Southern WV grant staff reported an increase focus on the social media presence for student services. A website specifically for BTG students and programs has been developed.

In addition, the college recently purchased software for a relational databased that works like Banner. This will allow the institution to build databases for Beacon and recruitment.

### March

A number of recruiting events have been taking place on each campus including an open house at the Logan campus, which showcased the EDT and IT programs. Nearly 30 students signed into this event, with many students bringing their parents.

There is also a job fair scheduled in response to the hundreds of layoffs from a local coal mine that the area will experience. Support services and financial aid staff will attend the job fair and will follow-up with students at WorkforceWV as many of these students are expected to receive services from WorkforceWV.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### January

A number of partnerships have been established including Workforce WV for marketing material distribution; Region 2 WIOA Board to attend meetings; WVU Manufacturing Extension to hold workshops for manufacturers in the area; and Unilin to develop an apprenticeship program. Southern WV grant staff also reported that internal employer engagement meetings have taken place to outline upcoming activities and review documents submitted to Mark Julian under the sector strategies grant. Southern WV is also planning a cross-sector Advisory Board meeting for mid-April.

### March

Southern WV established a partnership with West Virginia University to hold a workshop for manufacturers in the area. Over 20 participants attended the workshop, as reported.

A number of partnerships have been established. These partnerships are outlined below:

- Columbia Pipeline Workforce Training – a meeting will be held to discuss industry needs
- Mining Repair Specialists – toured facility and discussed partnership for manufacturing training
- Alpha Natural Resources – discussed partnership
- UMWA Career Center – want to establish referral process and distribute marketing materials

## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Based on our discussions with Southern WV, the following successes and challenges have been identified to date.

- + Southern WV grant staff reported modifying the IT program to better meet the needs of the students through accelerated formats and modified math requirements.
- + The student counselor and peer coaches have reported more exposure due to increased accessible since being moved to the Student Services department.
- Due to low enrollment, the EMI program will not continue with another cohort. Southern WV anticipates revising student recruitment strategies to address this problem.

## ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Based on our discussions with Southern WV, the following updates have been identified.

- The PLA policy has been drafted and is awaiting approval from the committee before moving forward.

# WEST VIRGINIA NORTHERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

### GENERAL

#### January

Staff have recently completed the latest round of curriculum review at which three new associates degrees in chemical process, instrumentation, and cybersecurity were all approved, and other programs were updated.

### ADVANCED MANUFACTURING/ENERGY

#### January

Staff applied for and received the grant opportunity offered through CTCS to develop accelerated programs of study and are using this to offer an accelerated Chemical Operator program. The curriculum for this program has been approved and the program will start in June or July with a developmental boot camp in June.

Staff have created a soft skills online/hybrid course this semester for mechatronics or petroleum students who needed an extra credit or two. Additionally, staff are looking at the mechatronics program to explore the possibility of adding hybrid courses with lecture portions online. All degree programs involving electricity and blueprint reading courses will be able to take these course in hybrid and online courses. Staff also want to utilize the TEAL lab for blueprint reading and are also exploring the possibility of offering open lab opportunities to students.

#### March

Staff received approval for the combined first-year petroleum and mechatronics curriculum. The curriculum brings together the similar courses required for students in both programs, allowing for the streamlining of course offerings.

Staff have also received approval for a Chemical Operator program and an Instrumentation Process Technician program. The two programs will overlap for the first 24 credit hours of the program, covering skills such as print reading and safety. Students will be able to receive OSHA and other certifications through the safety course and other certifications will be embedded throughout both programs.

For the new chemical operator program staff are exploring the option of providing four, 10-week courses with built in time for advising and supplemental instruction. This advising and instruction would be provided by a student success navigator to be hired under the grant. Staff are currently looking for instructors, equipment, and supplies for these courses. Staff are also prioritizing how marketing for this program and how financial aid will be provided for this accelerated course of study.

Finally, the mechatronics program was changed to Advanced Manufacturing; the students will receive an OSHA 30 certificate.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### January

Northern has an AAS in cybersecurity coming online in the fall, with the goal of offering a 2+2 program in the fall of 2017 in partnership with University of Charleston.

### March

Staff received approval for the Cybersecurity AAS degree. The program will start in the fall with national certifications embedded in the program, with the specific certificates chosen based on employer need.

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### January

Staff are looking to provide a peer coach for the new accelerated program to be hosted in New Martinsville. This person will help students with advising, class work, financial aid, registration, and more. They will also work with industry partners to help schedule tours for students.

Staff are working to hire two peer coaches in a BEACON model. One of these new staff members will start at the end of month, at which point staff will explore hiring another staff member.

Staff report doing a lot with PLAs including sending two staff members to be certified in PLA offerings.

### March

As addressed above, staff will be hiring an advisor for the accelerated Chemical Operator program to provide academic support and help with advising.

Staff have hired two part-time Beacon peer coaches who are working on retention and also helping students who enroll in the program by creating a file for each student affected by BTG and ensuring a participant form is filled out for each of these individuals.

Two staff members are now PLA certified and are exploring ways to get students to take advantage of these opportunities.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### January

Staff will offer a boot camp for the new chemical operator program, and are seeking to provide a co-requisite course for the MATH113 technical math course. Staff are currently working with the developmental education coordinator now to figure out how to offer this course alongside a second developmental education course in technical math.

A group of staff members will be attending a meeting regarding accelerated programming and exploring Open-Entry/Open-Exit course offerings.

### March

A co-requisite math course will be piloted for Chemical Operator program. Staff are exploring the possibility of offering bootcamps, especially for those students entering the accelerated program who need additional help in math and English. Fast-track students will be required to participate in boot camp if they do not meet certain minimum requirements and need developmental education.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### January

Staff have continued efforts around student recruitment including continuing commercials that play on Sundays, in addition to other efforts.

### March

Staff will be participating in open houses and are also looking to develop marketing materials for the Chemical Operator program.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### January

Staff are working to hold a meeting with multiple external partners – DHHR, workforce development, veterans – to coordinate strategies around sector partnerships. Mark Julian will attend and present at this meeting with external partners.

Staff also plan to have a provider meeting for, at least, advanced manufacturing. Staff already met with partners in the Petroleum field through Pierpont. Additionally, staff will work with CIT, which has advisory meetings to review curriculum, but would like to develop these further into sector meetings to address regional economic development needs as envisioned.

### March

Staff recently held a sector strategy meeting with 25 people including the local WIB director. Staff plan to hold a joint sector meeting with Pierpont for the Petroleum program. Staff will also set up meetings focused specifically on the IT and Advanced Manufacturing programs. Staff continue to meet with companies to explore the possibility of creating learn-and-earn programs.

## SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Based on our discussion, the following successes and challenges have been identified to date.

- + Staff successfully sent six programs through the curriculum review committee, with three of these being new programs or degrees.
- + Receiving the grant for the new accelerated programs will allow Northern to put up a new Chem Operator program.
- + Receiving approval for new program curriculum was an important accomplishment for staff and a vital step towards ensuring that these programs exist beyond the life of the grant.
- + Staff were able to find two individuals for the BEACON positions at the college, allowing students to receive additional support.



## **WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AT PARKERSBURG**

### **TECHNICAL PROGRAMS**

#### **GENERAL**

##### **January**

WVUP continues to develop and implement short-term programs that are more affordable for students and reduce student time in the classroom. Grant staff reported modifying course scheduling in attempts to receive approval for these short-term programs. Unfortunately, enrollment in technical programs is used as a justification to sustain programs and the institution as a whole is experiencing low enrollment. The ITL reported that more than half of these programs have been discontinued from the college due to low enrollment. Because of this, it is difficult to add technical programs to the existing catalog of programs. However, discussions with Community and Technical College Academic Affairs representatives to develop an online Bachelor's pathways are occurring consortium-wide.

##### **March**

Due to statewide budget cuts, a number of faculty at WVUP were let go including those instructing BTG programs. Because of this, the Electrical Technology and Industrial Safety programs have been suspended, beginning this fall. Grant staff reported a need for these programs in the region however, the college defines success as the number of completers and both programs experienced low enrollment.

Additionally, there is a statewide movement to implement an online bachelor's degree pathway that will be developed by WVUP and utilized throughout the state. A need for supervisory experience was expressed by local industry so the program will focus on providing students with the necessary management experience to move up in their companies. This program will be developed through the Business department.

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

##### **March**

Grant staff reported development of a career pathway under IT that begins in high school. The need for a pathway in IT surfaced when the college was asked to rework how they are providing curriculum from the secondary to post-secondary level.

### **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

##### **January**

Nine peer coaches are providing support to students this semester. The ITL reported that these peer coaches have been critical in the success of students enrolled in BTG programs. However, the college plans to move forward with a Student Ambassador program following the grant. The ITL anticipates that the peer coaches will not be sustainable in addition to the Student Ambassadors.

WVUP also anticipates eliminating the mentoring program and replacing it with a "Freshman Seminar" that was in place years ago. This course would be required of all first-time students and will include mentoring approaches for faculty and peer coaches working with students.

##### **March**

The college will pilot the Freshman Seminar in the fall with a total of three sections with 24 students per section. Currently, the curriculum is being refined and a faculty member will need to be identified. In

addition, peer coaches are working to promote institutional resources through FAQ and “Student Tips” sheets. These documents will inform students of resources that are available college wide and is anticipated to be an effective way to distribute information as many students do not regularly check their college emails.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### January

Developmental education has been replaced with the co-requisite model, launching this spring semester. Although data measuring success will not be released until the end of the semester, the ITL reported positive feedback from students.

### March

The college is continuing with the 100 percent co-requisite model and has received anecdotally positive feedback. Data on the effectiveness of this model will be available following the semester end.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### January

The Technical Program Recruiter was hired in December and has been tasked with creating more regional visibility of WVUP technical programs, whether this be through local organizations or employers. The Recruiter has been working with technical faculty to create a cohesive approach to recruiting.

### March

WVUP grant staff reported leveraging BTG funds for college wide recruitment staff. However, staff reported that the college wide recruiter may not be putting as much emphasis on BTG programs. The work of the recruiters has not reportedly benefited the BTG programs and grant staff anticipate working with the Vice Presidents to increase accountability.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### January

WVUP has two active sector partnerships in Manufacturing and IT with more meetings scheduled in the coming months. WVUP also plans to launch the Energy sector in the summer. Despite the Sector Partnership Coordinator’s maternity leave, WVUP plans to move forward with sector partnerships.

### March

A number of events are taking place due to the partnerships established through the grant. These events include:

- Manufacturing sector meeting
- Healthcare sector launch
- IT sector meeting

Grant staff anticipate that these meetings will generate additional partnerships moving forward. WVUP also anticipates establishing a committee for the Energy sector in the summer.

## SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

Based on our discussions with WVUP, the following successes and challenges have been identified to date.

- + The course designer is working with faculty to improve the course delivery of technical programs through online enhancements.
- + The shift to the co-requisite model has been reportedly a positive experience for students. Official data on the success of this shift will be released at the end of the semester.
- The ITL anticipates that the peer coaches will not be sustainable beyond grant funds, especially with the addition of Student Ambassadors.

## ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Based on our discussions with WVUP, the following updates have been identified.

- WVUP courses are undergoing Quality Matters review. The college itself currently has nearly ten reviewers that are certified and available.