

WEST VIRGINIA

BRIDGING THE GAP CONSORTIUM

TAACCCT ROUND 3

YEAR 3, QUARTER 3 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

- Peer coaches and grant staff utilize a number of software and assessment resources to ensure they are providing high-quality services to students. The World of Work Inventory provides a multidimensional career assessment for students to solidify their career path.<sup>1</sup> Staff and peer coaches also utilize Insightly, a Customer Relationship and Project Management software that allows peer coaches and staff to track outreach to employers and invite BTG sector employers to events (i.e., career fairs, job fairs, networking events, etc.).<sup>2</sup>
- A recent partnership has proven to be beneficial for Blue Ridge. Connections with Proctor and Gamble (P&G) have resulted in a number of opportunities for the college to supply program completers to P&G to fulfill their projected employment needs. P&G anticipates a need to hire 700 technicians and is looking to recruit students from Blue Ridge's Mechatronics program. Staff believe this partnership will help contribute to the future sustainability of the program, emphasizing the significance of establishing relationships with companies that will have long-term employment needs.

#### BRIDGEVALLEY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

- BridgeValley has reported an increased focus on developing bridge programs for BTG courses to ensure that students are equipped with the technical skills needed to succeed in programs once they are enrolled. Partnerships with other colleges have expedited this process and staff anticipate launching these programs in the coming months.
- BridgeValley continues their focus on veteran engagement, certifying the institution as veteran-friendly by a number of national organizations. This focus on veteran students has significantly improved veteran outcomes at the college with 80 percent fall to spring retention last academic year. The established veteran's club provides these students with the opportunity to interact with other veteran students and the involvement of the club in local community engagement provides a positive outlet outside of the college.

#### EASTERN COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

- In order to generate additional partnerships, Eastern will be launching a Door Knocking Campaign with local businesses to generate relationships. Staff are also utilizing promotional materials and events (i.e., CMT concert and promotional videos) to increase awareness of the BTG programs and other opportunities at Eastern. These creative avenues could likely increase business partnerships moving forward.
- The Country Music Television event was hosted at Eastern in May and Eastern saw increased interest in BTG programs. Staff reported eight visits from students during the event to inquire about BTG programs and an additional five visits in the following weeks. Additionally, Eastern saw a significant increase in digital coverage with over 100 students promoting the event on Facebook, over 500 students posting photos on Facebook, and nearly 300 students posting after

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.wowi.com/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.insightly.com/>

the event on Facebook. This event enabled the college to advertise BTG and other college programs.

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

- Mountwest has recently refocused on veteran recruitment and retention through a partnership with the National Guard, Army, and other military organizations. This has afforded the Veteran Coordinator the opportunity to attend formal veteran recruiting events and identify the needs of veterans in regards to supportive services. Grant staff have reported that this has been beneficial in increasing the support for veterans at their campus.
- To ensure future sustainability of the IT fast-track program at Mountwest, staff have started marketing the program to potential students looking to obtain single certifications (i.e., students can enter the program, obtain the certification they need, and exit the program). To ensure the program can accommodate this change, the open entry, open exit model was incorporated into the IT fast-track program. Moving forward, staff believe this structure will help increase program enrollment and sustain the program.

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

- New River grant staff hosted a number of events that allowed the college to highlight BTG programs. These events, with student, employer, and other vendor attendance, showcased the programs in unique ways (i.e., demonstrations, discussing expected trends and projections, and employer interviews with students for internships and other opportunities).
- To accommodate more students in the successful Line Service program, grant staff are exploring ways to integrate material to an online format. While many of the courses will be taught in the classroom due to the hands-on nature of the program, grant staff are hopeful that integrating some material online will increase accessibility to the program and future sustainability. Moving forward, grant staff will begin to do the same for all BTG programs.

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

- Pierpont grant staff continue to place a heavy focus on student recruitment and industry partnerships, resulting in countless internships and hiring commitments from employers and increased student enrollment in BTG programs. As reported during the most recent call, nearly 10 partnerships have recently been established for BTG programs with hiring commitments and internships established. In addition, the college has hosted a number of recruitment events that have contributed to the over 40 students that are expected in the Applied Process Technology program in the fall.
- Close relationships with the local Workforce Development Board has afforded Pierpont the opportunity to develop additional promotional materials (i.e., newspaper ads and flyers). The Workforce Development Board, upon conversations with Pierpont grant staff, will incur the costs of printing and distributing these materials to customers in efforts to promote BTG programs. This relationship will enable grant staff with reaching a larger area of potential students.

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

- Southern WV allowed students to compete in SkillsUSA<sup>3</sup> – a partnership of students, teachers, and industry that work together in a number of ways to ensure that there is a skilled workforce. The competition afforded students the opportunity to demonstrate the skills learned in the Welding program, utilizing all four welding processes that were taught throughout the program. The

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.skillsusa.org/>

students proceeded to place second in the state competition after thoroughly demonstrating the welding competencies.

- Due to Southern's success with the co-curricular model implementation, other BTG consortium members and four-year institutions have reached out to discuss the model, including development and implementation tips. Two Developmental Education Coordinators attended a Student Success Summit in Morgantown to present on the model as well.

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

- Northern grant staff reported an increased focus in selectivity for accelerated program enrollment. Staff faced challenges with students in these programs not being successful due to low GPA and other factors staff believed were influencing success in this type of program model. With this in mind, staff are beginning to review student applications to ensure that the students enrolled in the accelerated programs will have an increased likelihood of succeeding. In other words, grant staff are implementing procedures that allow them to be more selective for this program model.
- Northern staff continue to hire personnel, finalize curriculum, and identify certifications for accelerated program models. Staff have worked to launch accelerated models for the Chemical Operator and Welding programs. These programs provide students with certifications and also an expedited route to a degree. Because accelerated models can be difficult for some students, Northern staff have also used the summer months to locate additional advisors and other support staff to assist students in these programs.

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

- While not a focus of the TAACCCT grant, WVUP staff have made strides in establishing partnerships with local high schools as a way to recruit students. Because there is a need for high school students to obtain the skills necessary to succeed in the workplace, WVUP staff have worked with guidance counselors to discuss the programs offered at the college and how best to target students for these programs. Moving forward, grant staff anticipate these partnerships will help sustain BTG programs.
- Grant staff continually utilize unique approaches to employer and industry engagement. The process of engaging these partners has been reportedly organic to date as WVUP staff typically bring in employers and allow them to set the sector meeting agenda (i.e., determine the topic and discussion for the meeting). This approach has reportedly resulted in more partnerships than prior to the grant and has enabled the college to bring in more diverse businesses due to the organic approach that would not silo any conversations. In other words, by letting the employers in the room determine the conversation, it is not limited by the college and becomes more inclusive to different types of employers (i.e., small businesses and large businesses).

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

# BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

### GENERAL

May

The table below is a depiction of the progress made at Blue Ridge for each course within the BTG programs. This table outlines the course, percentage of the course that is complete, notes on what needs to be completed, and other notes regarding the course.

ENGL 110 Technical Writing	100%	COMPLETE	Fully online course; Earned official QM recognition February 2016
MATH 102 Technical Math	100%	COMPLETE	Flipped model
MECH 250 Intro to PLC	100%	COMPLETE	Flipped model
IT 192 A+ Practicum	100%	COMPLETE	Flipped model
CYBR 192 Sec+ Practicum	100%	COMPLETE	Flipped model
Skills 101 Math Boot Camp	100%	COMPLETE	Fully-online learning modules
MATH 105 Algebra	95%	Official QM Review	Deadline for pre-review course revisions 4/22/2016
IT 111 Info Lit for IT Prof	85%	Internal QM Review	WebEx to plan pre-review course revisions scheduled for 4/26/2016
IT 276 Security+	85%	Internal QM Review	
CAS 192 Practicum	25%	Add content to each module: assignments, videos, and any other learning materials required.	
EDET 101 Intro to Line Worker	20%	Create pole climbing, ladder, aerial lift, and hand tool demonstration videos.	
IT 185 Intro to Linux	15%	Awaiting instructor created materials	
IT 269 Project Management	5%	Project Launch Meeting, syllabus, assessments	
CAS 111 Info Literacy	5%	Finish IT 111, then build out remainder of course.	Once IT 111 is complete, this course will use 85% of it.
			PHASE 1: A course site for EDET 181 was built to facilitate online access to course

<b>EDET 181 Conflict Resolution</b>	PHASE 1: 100%	PHASE 1: COMPLETE	materials. The site includes A syllabus, Course schedule, Chapter presentations, Quizzes, A final project, and An interactive grade book.
	PHASE 2: 0%	Working with the program coordinator and the faculty member teaching the course, further content will be created/added. A meeting will be scheduled once the program coordinator and instructor discuss the upcoming changes.	

Grant staff indicated a deadline for any additional program changes that faculty wish to make to the courses as the Curriculum Instruction Committee will only be meeting one more time during the grant period.

The course designer that was involved in all course design and integrating online components to the courses recently resigned. The college will explore other avenues (i.e., locating grant funds or hiring a third-party vendor) to continue to make these changes.

### ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

#### July

Blue Ridge staff have continued to work with Proctor and Gamble (P&G) to establish a partnership within the Mechatronics program. The nature of this partnership includes reviewing curricula, identifying training needs to meet P&G’s employment demands, and working with program faculty to identify areas of potential program growth. Additionally, P&G began housing representatives at Blue Ridge’s Technology Center, leasing additional space until they move to another location. P&G has identified a need for 700 technicians over the next two years and wants Blue Ridge to become the primary training provider for the company. With this partnership, Blue Ridge has reported the highest enrollment in the Mechatronics program to date – estimated 55 students.

In fall, Blue Ridge staff will launch the open entry format within this program, offering courses the second eight-week period of the semester. Moving forward, this open entry program will offer two start dates per semester to ensure the program adheres to Title 4 funding compliance. Online lecture coursework and open lab work (i.e., flexible lab time scheduling) will be utilized within this program.

### ENERGY

#### July

A recent partnership with First Energy has yielded a number of positive results. First Energy has assisted Blue Ridge with curriculum revisions to ensure student success and has identified 19 students to enroll in the Electric Utility Technology degree program this fall. The program will require students to attend



classes three days per week at the college and two days at First Energy for two years. The first cohort to experience this model completed with a 96 percent success rate so Blue Ridge anticipates utilizing this same format moving forward.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### July

The IT department has partnered with the local Air National Guard to provide specialized training. While Blue Ridge has partnered with Air National Guard in the past, their needs have shifted to more customized and tailored training programs. A group of guardsmen were sent through the program in July and Blue Ridge anticipates similar needs in the future.

Online courses offered within IT are currently going through Quality Matters review. At this point, two courses have been reviewed and are Quality Matters Certified. Faculty anticipate sending 14 courses through this review process by the end of the grant.

IT faculty are also working to launch Netlabs, a virtual lab services enabling students to access content more easily. Once this is complete, Blue Ridge anticipates access for all BTG colleges to use this service.

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### May

One of the peer coaches recently left the college, while the other peer coaches have been tasked with five main responsibilities:

1. Assisting students with understanding and considering career options through the World of Work Inventory (WOWi) assessment with training for faculty, referrals from faculty/advisors, and administration of the WOWi among the most recent progress made.
2. Assisting in locating job opportunities through Insightly database, an online Customer Relationship Management tool, that allows peer coaches to invite BTG sector employers to upcoming events (i.e., career fairs, job fairs, mock interviews, and networking events).
3. Engaging and assisting career pathway students with resume development, interview training, and job search best practices through the WOWi assessment, workshops (e.g., personal branding, appearance, cover letter, and social media), and the career transition course that covers topics such as career assessment, resume development, interview skills, and communication skills.
4. Assisting with developing opportunities for placement in career clusters at multiple exit points through networking events and career fairs.
5. Assisting in obtaining industry guest lecturer or panelists through partner organization to expose students to industry leaders through networking events.

### July

Blue Ridge staff are currently hosting interviews for peer coaches for the upcoming fall semester. However, because of budget modification challenges, there may not be funds available to hire peer coaches. With this in mind, Blue Ridge staff will be waiting to officially hire peer coaches until a funding source is identified.

Building Brand Workshops have been offered with topics such as personal branding, cover letter, appearance, networking, interviewing, and social media addressed. A total of 12 IT students participated in these workshops.

Mock interviews were also offered to students with 12 from the IT program interviewing with employers from the industry. Blue Ridge staff reported that some students receive job offers at these types of mock interviews.

An IT Spring Networking Event was also offered with five employers in the IT industry and 20 students participated. Employers attending this event discussed current trends in the industry and answered student questions. At the end of the event, 30 minutes was reserved for networking time. Finally, a career fair was also offered with ten Mechatronics employers, 11 IT employers, and one EDET employer in attendance.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### May

Grant staff have started making revisions to online components in MATH-102 Technical Math, with expected completion by August, as well as the online version of MATH-100 bootcamps. Staff have set goals to launch online bootcamps in the coming months.

### July

Online bootcamps were completed this summer. Additionally, Blue Ridge experience administrative turnover (i.e., Math Department Chair) in the past few months. However, the English Department Chair has returned from leave so Blue Ridge staff anticipate moving forward.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### May

Grant staff reported partnering with an enrollment management team in an effort to get students enrolled and retained. Staff reach out to students that have been “lost” along the registration process to identify intervention points.

### July

Blue Ridge staff hosted a phone-a-thon event to contact continuing students that did not register for fall courses. On location registration was accomplished with these students, with over 40 students registered in one day. Current enrollment numbers in the BTG programs are the following: Mechatronics – 44 students; Energy – 56 students; and IT – 30 students.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### May

Grant staff reported that the first semester of Learn-and-Earn has been completed with two students at Quad Graphics. In addition, Blue Ridge is partnering with a number of employers for hiring commitments and internships (i.e., First Energy and Proctor and Gamble).

### July

Through the events listed above, Blue Ridge has been able to invite and host 28 BTG-related employers at their institution. Through the Career Services Employer Outreach Plan that was developed, 64 employers have been identified to establish connections since March 2016. Of those 64 employers, Blue Ridge initiated contact with 33 of those employers and had face-to-face meetings with ten employers. Blue Ridge staff found that:

- Six of these companies are interested in customized training;

- Two are interested in contracted training and want to enroll employees in the Mechatronics program;
- Eight out of ten are interested in hosting interns and four initiated this process; and
- All of the companies are interested in recruiting from Blue Ridge's graduates.

Additionally, a partnership has been developed with the Department of Health and Human Resources to assist TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) students in obtaining an Associate of Applied Science degree. A grant will be provided to fund a Case Manager for these students. From this partnership, 14 students have already enrolled at Blue Ridge for this fall.

Finally, Blue Ridge has invited the local Workforce Development Board to talk to students and set up times for Program Coordinators to sit at One Stops to recruit students.

## **ADDITIONAL UPDATES**

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

- A number of college and grant staff have recently left the college, resulting in challenges in moving forward. Grant staff are attempting to account for these changes by identifying other individuals that might help with course design, for example.
- Guided Pathway Maps have been created for all sector programs and sent for review. Advisors that have been using the maps have reported satisfaction as the maps make their jobs easier. Blue Ridge anticipates extending this approach to all college programs in the future.

# BRIDGEVALLEY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

### GENERAL

#### July

BridgeValley staff have reported that the BTG programs are currently in 'maintenance mode.' In other words, all of the programs have been established and, if needed, only minor modifications are being made.

Additionally, staff are working to implement open enrollment for the Instrumentation program and also other courses in the technical programs to be launched in the fall. Math and English courses are being developed to account for the changes made to the technical programs.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

#### May

The program has re-shifted focus to developing a capstone course for the Cybersecurity program. BridgeValley will be working with Blue Ridge over the summer to develop this course, with an anticipated launch of the course in the fall. In addition, IT program faculty will continue to work on developing hybrid courses with simulations and online components integrated into the program.

### ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND ENERGY

#### May

While a capstone course has existed in the Engineering Technology program, faculty will begin integrating components of the Mechanical Design program and Engineering Technology capstone. Faculty are examining the lesson plans within both of these program to determine how best to integrate these components into a more robust capstone course.

Advanced Manufacturing faculty is partnering with the Office of Adult Education to develop a bridge program this summer. This program will run for four weeks with the goal of introducing students to the technical skills they will need when they begin credit-bearing programs in the fall.

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

#### May

Peer coaches have shifted focus during the summer months to completing the reporting for the services provided throughout the year. The report will include contacts made with students and will provide data for the Miners Path to Success program.

#### July

##### *Veteran Services*

BridgeValley staff provided support service updates and data for the past year specifically around veteran students. These updates are listed below:

- Two national organizations recognized the institution are veteran-friendly
- BridgeValley completed the five-star challenge and received a coin
- The college is fully compliant with AT military services, Principles of Excellence, and the five-star challenge

- The veteran's club participated in Toys for Tots and other community projects and fundraisers for the Wounded Warrior project.

The data provided for the past year, specifically around veterans, are outlined below:

- Increased fall to spring retention of 80 percent
- Self-reported, non-certified veteran students totaled 133
- 39 students were in veteran's club and attended 12 recruiting events

#### *Career Services*

Within Career Services, two career events were hosted by BridgeValley with 35 employers at one event and 17 at the other. Additionally, staff continue to update the College Central Network, which has 130 registered employers and 150 registered students. Over 30 employers were identified as BTG-specific.

#### *Counseling and Peer Coach Services*

While a counselor from the Montgomery campus resigned, peer coaches and counselors continue to be heavily involved in local community partnerships and students. A number of events will be hosted this fall included Mocktails with DUI simulator; events with REACH, Domestic Violence Coalitions, and suicide prevention; and workshops for finals week. Through these continued events and partnerships, student engagement awareness events increased by six events last year and participation in events increased by 500 students.

Peer coaches have continued their work with students and have been assisting students with course and Accuplacer registration as well as setting up meetings between students and advisors. One significant update was that 115 students that had not registered for the fall academic year were registered over the summer through the assistance of peer coaches.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### **May**

There are no significant updates in this area of the grant to report.

### **July**

BridgeValley staff are hosting a regional English meeting to train faculty on accelerated formats, integrating reading and writing, and co-requisite English. Staff have also been working to transition English Comp to Technical English for technical programs. The college contracted the development of this course and will launch it in the spring semester. This same process is occurring for the development of technical math courses, which will focus more on math reasoning skills.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### **May**

Grant staff reported efforts to continue building on the successful strategies that have been implemented in the past. The opportunities range from Learn and Earn programs to other structured programs that provide students with hands-on opportunities.

### **July**

Staff attend recruiting events and visits recreation centers in Charleston. Advertisements about BTG programs are distributed around the area and a Northern representative visits the local Workforce Development Board at least once per week. Additionally, a partnership with Goodwill Industries has enabled the college to begin recruiting veterans.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### May

IT faculty indicated a focus on convening IT businesses as often as possible to discuss curriculum, partnerships, and resources available. Two sector meetings for IT have been convened as well as three for Advanced Manufacturing and Energy. The college as a whole is establishing joint partnerships with businesses and leveraging grant resources to strengthen those partnerships (i.e., splitting pay for internships between company and grant).

### July

Northern continues to host quarterly sector meetings and reach out to employers in the area that the college has not worked with in the past.

## ADDITIONAL UPDATES

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

- The PLA website has been branded and launched. In the coming weeks, grant staff will meet with the marketing department to discuss the Promotion Toolkit and ways to promote the website.
- Staff are working to finalize academic maps for the Guided Pathways movement and will host a workshop on campus for math pathways. Staff are also identifying professional development opportunities related to getting Guided Pathways implemented at the college (i.e., faculty are looking to embed certification costs into programs).
- Northern staff have been researching and identifying potential professional development opportunities for faculty and staff including certifications to instruct online courses, Quality Matters training, and conference.
- BridgeValley will be hosting the training for Guided Pathways in the coming months.

# EASTERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

### GENERAL

#### May

Fees for the MTA, NCCER, and PMMI certifications have been embedded into the course costs, with this structure piloted in the spring semester. However, students were not taking advantage of this opportunity because it requires students to pay upfront for these courses. Grant staff reported this as a major hurdle and will be exploring ways to address this challenge moving forward.

#### July

Eastern has reported that all three of the BTG programs offered at the institution are fully aligned to credentials. Certification costs have been embedded into course costs, and this approach will launch in the fall. Additionally, capstone courses have been modified and updated to include real-life applications.

While Eastern may not have the capacity and infrastructure to implement an accelerated and open entry model, the college has been integrating online components into programs. For instance, the IT program has two courses that are online. Eastern staff also reported that there are not enough students for Eastern to implement this model (i.e., Eastern is located in a rural part of West Virginia) and employer did not indicate that accelerated and open entry programs were a need.

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

#### May

Staff are beginning to receive data from Tutor.com, with consistent positive feedback being reported by students. This data will continually be examined over the summer to ensure that this resource is meeting the needs of the students.

Funds are being used to supply the Eastern Advocates with computers for the student success labs. This will allow students to easily access Tutor.com with one computer designated for veterans to ensure that space is made available to this population.

In addition, grant staff are considering a veteran bootcamp in the fall to assist those that are unsure about college or may need assistance with transitioning into college. Staff also anticipate hosting a resource day for veterans so these students are aware of the resources on campus and in the community.

#### July

Eastern Advocates are still being utilized at the college and Tutor.com will continue to be utilized based on the positive feedback received from students. Veteran Collaboration Sessions are held quarterly, bringing together multiple veteran community stakeholders (i.e., Disabled Veteran Coordinator, and others) to discuss how better to serve veterans at Eastern.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

#### May

Grant staff reported that data for students in developmental education-type courses will be made available over the summer. Staff will review this data to identify any areas that may require modifications.

July

A number of developmental education courses are going through the transition to a co-requisite model. Many of the courses will be launched in Spring 2017. Overall, Eastern staff are examining all developmental education courses to determine if they are effective and are making modifications accordingly. The data that staff are examining is outlined below:

ENGLISH											
Class	Staff	Student	4 WEEKS			8 WEEKS			12 WEEKS		
			Grade	Missing Work	Attendance	Grade	Missing Work	Attendance	Grade	Missing Work	Attendance
ENL 100-AL1	A	1	A		x				WITHDREW		
		2	A		x	F			WITHDREW		
ENL 100-AL2	B	3	F	x		B			A		
		4	D	x		B			A		
		5	F	x	x	F			WITHDREW		
RDG 100	C	6	D	x	x	F	x	x	F	x	x
		7	F	x	x	F	x	x	F	x	x
		8	D	x	x	F	x	x	F	x	x
		9	B	x	x	F	x	x	F	x	x
		10	C	x	x	F	x	x	F	x	x
		11	A	x	x	F	x	x	F	x	x
MATH											
Class	Staff	Student	4 WEEKS			8 WEEKS			12 WEEKS		
			Grade	Missing Work	Attendance	Grade	Missing Work	Attendance	Grade	Missing Work	Attendance
MTH 100-A11	D	12	D	x		C			?	?	?
MTH 101-A11	EP	5	F	x	x	F	x	x	F	x	x
MTH 101-A12	F	13	D	x		F	?	?	F	x	x
		14	D	x		C	?	?	D	Low test grades	
MTH 103-A11	G	15	F	x	x	F		x	WITHDREW		
		16	D	x		F		x	WITHDREW		
		17	F	x		F			WITHDREW		
		18	D	x		F	x	x	F	Stopped Attending	
		19	F	x	x	F		x	F	Stopped Attending	
		20	F	x	x	F			WITHDREW		
		21	F		x	F			WITHDREW		
		22	C			F	x	x	WITHDREW		
23	B			F			WITHDREW				
MTH 103-A12	G	24	F	x	x	F		x	F	Stopped Attending	
		25	D	x		F	x	x	D	x	x
		26	D	x		F	x		D	x	
		10	F	x		F		x	F	Stopped Attending	
		27	F	x		F	x	x	F	Stopped Attending	
		7	F	x		F	x	x	F	Stopped Attending	
		28	F	x		F			WITHDREW		
		29	B			F	x	x	D	x	x
30	C			F		x	D	x			
31	C			F		x	WITHDREW				
6	C		x	F		x	F	Stopped Attending			

Additionally, staff have been calculating completion rates for the past two years to determine if completion has been expedited. Staff found that 70.4 percent of students who passed a developmental education courses after Spring 2014 also passed a gateway course within two years, compared to 54.3 percent between Fall 2013 and Fall 2015. Of the students that passed a gateway course within two years, 34.2 percent passed the gateway course in the same semester and a further 40 percent passed in the next semester. In other words, 74.2 percent of successful developmental students passed a gateway course within two semesters.



## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### May

Promotional program-specific videos have been completed and sent to media partners. In addition, the CMT concert was held in late May and staff will measure the influx of traffic on Facebook and the website to determine whether the marketing at the concert had an impact on the college webpage traffic.

### July

Eastern staff provided a number of updates related to student recruitment, including:

- Attended the Noel Levitz conference to gather recruitment and outreach strategies
- Attended career fairs in service districts
- Staff anticipate hosting a Veteran Resource Fair and Veteran Bootcamp this fall
- Hosted the CMT event

The CMT event resulted in countless marketing opportunities. Digital coverage and website activity is listed below:

Digital coverage results - Excludes subscriptions

- Pre performance article: Facebook - 1,857; website - 209 (20 days online)
- Promoted post: Facebook - 133 (10 days online)
- Post-performance photos: Facebook - 567 (10 days online)
- Post-performance story: Facebook – 272; website - 21 (6 days online)

Eastern Website Activity

- 3.4% spike in website traffic from first week
- 5,821 sessions

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### May

Eastern hosted the first annual District Consortium Legislator Invitational with a number of representatives from AACC, industry, and others in attendance. Findings from the third-party gap analysis were shared, although not funded by BTG, and the next meeting in the fall will target next steps with that information in mind.

A Door Knocking Campaign will be launched to target development of business partnerships. Eastern is finishing a brochure that will be handed out to businesses.

### July

A number of activities within this section have taken place at Eastern, including a Manufacturing Sector Meeting, which had 15 participants and a reformatting of the DCED meetings to embrace sector meetings.

## **ADDITIONAL UPDATES**

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

- Progress has been made in Guided Pathways development, especially around the Electro-mechanical program.
- Eastern has contracted with Blackboard Analytics to set up the infrastructure of the system and provide training to Eastern faculty and staff. The first training will occur at the end of August.
- The Partnerships to Possibilities program was halted, but since the concept has been created, staff will consider utilizing this framework in another capacity (i.e., local high schools to help get high school students MSSC credentials).

# MOUNTWEST COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

#### May

The last cohort of IT students that will be tracked through the BTG grant was enrolled in the summer. Grant staff reported around 10 students enrolled in the program, noting that there was significant student interest but students were apprehensive about the fast-paced nature of the program.

#### July

The IT fast-track cohort will begin coursework in the fall. While this is the last fast-track cohort under the grant, the college will continue to enroll students that require small sections of the program (i.e., a single certification or skillset) to ensure sustainability of the program moving forward. This will be accomplished through the incorporation of open entry, open exit modeling (i.e., allowing students to come into and exit the program at any time).

### ENGINEERING DESIGN TECHNOLOGY AND EDET

#### May

The EDET program is running two courses this summer for students that started the program in the spring semester. Grant staff reported that students will likely complete their general education courses over the summer and will complete the program by December.

The Engineering Design Technology program has seen increased enrollment since the initial launch. In addition, grant staff reported enhancing the general education courses in the EDT program, with plans to incorporate evening courses to accommodate the needs of the students enrolled in this program. Staff anticipate developing an algebra-based general education course based on an OEOE model, implemented by the fall semester. Grant staff hypothesize that development of this course may expedite program completion.

#### July

The open entry, open exit EDT program was offered in the spring but students in this program did not want to break for the summer so the college decided to offer two courses over the summer to accommodate these students. These students will be completing the two-year program, which enables students to stack credentials.

Staff reached out to several companies to offer specialized training for employees to go through the EDT program as a sustainability consideration.

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

#### May

For the fall semester, there will be three BTG-funded peer coaches – for the accelerated EDT, regular EDT, and fast-track IT programs. Peer coaches will continue to monitor the students in these programs and offer assistance as needed.

## July

A peer coach was recently lost for the open entry, open exit Engineering Design Technology program but staff will be looking to rehire for this position by the fall. Staff will prioritize hiring for this position as it will be manning the lab for the program in the evenings.

Peer coaches and counselors have been working over the summer to assist with registration and retention for students taking summer courses.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### May

Grant staff reported that bootcamps will begin August 1 and run for the entire week. The bootcamps will be offered for Reading, English, Math, and IT with registration currently open. Registration has only been open for a couple of weeks and grant staff report that these bootcamps are already almost full – 24 is full capacity in each bootcamp course. Staff may need to look into offering another bootcamp to accommodate the vast interest of students in these courses.

### July

Math and reading bootcamps will be held August 1-4 with 75 students currently enrolled. This is the first time that students will be asked to pay a fee for the bootcamps of \$25 per session in an attempt to ensure sustainability of the bootcamps moving forward. However, to account for this change, students will be able to pay on site for the bootcamp or online. As a college, staff have worked to get students through their Accuplacer as quickly as possible in an effort to get them registered in bootcamps over the summer.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### May

The Veteran Coordinator at the college was recently approved to begin attending recruitment events held by the National Guard, Army, and other military organizations. Grant staff reported participation in a number of events since permission was granted including a veteran's outreach training that was held in Morgantown. Mountwest has increased focus on expanding outreach with veterans in the recruitment and support services offered.

### July

Recruitment for all BTG programs continues, although marketing for IT has shifted to single certification testing rather than the fast-track program as a whole. The college has worked with Workforce WV to target dislocated workers.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### May

The Employer Outreach Specialist has scheduled a sector-based IT meeting for the end of June with plans to host two more sector meetings before the grant ends. Two additional individuals were brought in by Mark Julian the assist the specialist in their efforts to expand sector partnerships. These individuals have recently met attended meetings with the specialist to discuss how to better market the institution. From these discussions, a marketing plan will be developed incorporating relationships with employers and recruitment and outreach materials.

## July

An IT sector meeting was hosted in June with four employers in attendance. While this number was lower than the number of employers that were invited – 15, – staff emphasized that this allowed the team to delve deeper into the companies to discuss internships. Workforce WV attended this meeting and also discussed the challenges of students affording industry certifications so they have agreed to pay for IT students' certifications.

Additionally, the Employer Outreach Specialist is working on setting up a sector-based meeting for EDT and will be following up with IT companies from the sector meeting held in June.

## **ADDITIONAL UPDATES**

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

- Mountwest staff have participated in Guided Pathways meetings to ensure that students have a number of clear paths to employment and will be working to develop pathways for their programs.
- The college is gearing up for the launch of Blackboard Analytics at the end of August. The system will be released to college Deans and Department Chairs so they can become familiar with the dashboard and how to track students in their programs.

# NEW RIVER COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

### GENERAL

#### July

All programs have cohorts of students beginning in August.

### WELDING

#### May

For the Welding program, an Advanced Procedures capstone course is set up to take the skills learned throughout the program and apply them to real-world scenarios that test how students would use the knowledge gained to solve the problems.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

#### May

The IT capstone course is all online and consists mainly of simulations to test students' knowledge. The course requires students to test the knowledge gained throughout the program.

### LINE SERVICE AND EDET

#### May

The EDET capstone course tests students at a higher level than previous courses. Rather than test the skills learned through the program in real-world scenarios, students are required to complete a final exam that tests the competencies learned throughout the program.

A capstone course does not yet exist for the Line Service program. The ATC has been running Line Service courses this summer.

#### July

The Line Service program currently has 45 students enrolled for the fall semester. Additionally, the course designer has been working to integrate parts of Line Service program courses online. Curriculum for the online transition will be reviewed by faculty. The EMI and Welding programs will experience the same transition soon.

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

#### May

Peer coaches are currently working to contact students that have not yet registered for the fall semester. The coaches are also assisting students that visit the campus by promoting the BTG programs.

#### July

Peer coaches have been active with the start of the fall semester drawing closer. Coaches have been reaching out to register students and calling past 'stop-out' students.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

#### May

There are no significant updates to provide in this component of the grant.

## July

Staff are continuing with the model that has been in place.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### May

Two events have been hosted by grant staff that highlight the BTG programs. These events include:

1. IT Summit that brought in speakers from West Virginia University and the FBI to discuss cyber-security and other fields. These speakers also discussed expected trends and projections for the IT industry.
2. Utility and Technology Expo (previously the Line Service Rodeo but was expanded to include all BTG programs, except for IT. The event was attended by 15-20 employers, vendors, and veteran representation and included a line service demonstration. Employers set up interviews with students after the Expo, with all but one student in the spring semester group hired for Learn-and-Earn with employers in the electricity field.

### July

Another college recruiter was recently lost so grant staff have begun exploring other ways to market programs and develop marketing materials. Funds will be moved in the budget modification to account for this need.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS STRATEGIES

### May

New River has worked to host sector strategies meetings, with the most recent meeting including open discussions around resources. The college discussed partnerships, collaborations, success stories, and recent updates. Staff also facilitated discussions around next steps, resulting in a need for Advanced Manufacturing discussions (i.e., ensuring they are aware of the funds available at WDBs, employers, training money, learn-and-earn opportunities, etc.).

Moving forward, grant staff will continue to reach out to businesses individually in a more strategic way. Staff will meet to discuss ways to divvy businesses among grant staff based on previously established relationships, professional experience, etc. to ensure that contact is streamlined and strategic.

### July

Grant staff are working on the next sector strategies meeting for Advanced Manufacturing, which will be held on August 25. However, the Workforce Development Board representative that typically hosts these meetings has recently left the college. Staff will strategize on how to account for this moving forward.

## ADDITIONAL UPDATES

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

- Grant staff found the BTG quarterly meeting to be helpful as sustainability was discussed among the ITLs, which is a growing concern for the colleges as the grant comes to an end.
- The Instructional Designer that was hired to assist with course design became unresponsive, resulting in the college exploring other options. Grant staff will begin interviewing other candidates.
- The ITL will be transitioning out of the college over the new few months. There is no news on a replacement.

## **PIERPONT COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

### **TECHNICAL PROGRAMS**

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

##### **May**

The Applied Process Technology program has received new applicants in addition to those from the Power Plant program that will be placed in the program as well. Grant staff anticipate nearly 40 students enrolled in the program this fall. All students in this program, except two, have been placed in internships.

Simulation equipment is being purchased for the Midstream Oil and Gas. The simulator will be housed at the National Research Center for Coal and Energy, which is housed within the National Energy Technology Lab. The capstone course in this program allows students to become familiar with the technology in the field. The first 10 weeks of the course include training because students have not been exposed to the technology and simulations used in this course to date. The last five weeks incorporate hands-on experience to ensure that the curriculum used in the program is brought together in a meaningful way.

##### **July**

Through a partnership with BridgeValley, Pierpont will be implementing Gas Measurement courses. The curriculum is finalized and will be launched after an instructor is located.

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

##### **May**

Faculty in the IT program are identifying internship opportunities for students and researching certifications for the Guided Pathways initiative.

##### **July**

Grant and college staff recently attended a Cybersecurity Forum hosted by the state's Congressman. Pierpont staff discussed the plan to launch a Cybersecurity program with CFRA – a large governmental contractor – who is interested in assisting with curriculum development.

For the IT program, block scheduling – switch scheduling – will be implemented in Fall 2017 along with the new curriculum.

### **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

##### **May**

Throughout the summer months, grant staff anticipate reviewing the data collected on BTG students to make any necessary modifications to components to improve the students' experiences at the college. For instance, computer training and other tutoring opportunities may be incorporated.

In addition, grant staff reported incorporating peer coaches into the most recent budget modification with five or six part-time peer coaches expected to be hired. The college is prioritizing peer coaches as sustainability is considered in the final months of the grant.

##### **July**

Peer coaches are helping students register for courses and become familiar with the ATC location, especially for students that may have classes on both the main campus and ATC.



## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### May

Grant staff are considering ways to help students with math over the summer. This includes modifying courses with math lessons to ensure that students can succeed in those classes moving forward.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### May

Grant staff reported a refocus on student recruitment in the past few months. Efforts have included:

- An open house was hosted at the college in early April with 247 attendees reported including 15 non-traditional students and two veterans. Nearly 50 students applied to the college's programs after that event;
- Local Army base recruitment events, which have since resulted in nearly 50 applications to the college;
- Events hosted at Fairmont State College, with 127 students referred to Pierpont; and
- Multiple job fairs.

A marketing plan is also being developed to ensure that all promotional materials are branded with the college logo and the slogan – "I Can."

### July

Grant staff met with the WIB to begin developing marketing materials that the WIB will print and hand out to incoming customers. The WIB will also work with grant staff to develop a newspaper ad that will be distributed to customers in the service area.

Radio advertisements, television ads, and other marketing tools will be launched in the coming weeks with another push in the middle of the fall semester to begin enrollment for the spring.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### May

A number of internships and hiring commitments have recently been set up with local industry and include, but are not limited to:

- Longview Power for the Applied Process Technology program;
- Powerview Station for the Applied Process Technology program;
- Resolute with two internships set up at this component;
- Mount Storm to host internships and accept graduates for the Applied Process program;
- Mark West for oil and gas to set up hiring commitments;
- Novellus with two to three internships per year offered; and
- Eagle Manufacturing with one internship per year set up.

### July

Through a partnership with First Energy, the Applied Process Technology program will begin its first cohort with 30 students this fall.

## **ADDITIONAL UPDATES**

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

- Pierpont is finalizing PLA information and updating this information on the webpage.
- Pierpont is finalizing all Guided Pathways Maps for BTG programs. Informational sheets were developed outlining the pathway options for students.
- A statewide monitoring visit took place in early August to discuss progress toward deliverables. Pierpont staff reported they are on track besides data input into Teamwork, which they will be working on in the coming weeks.
- For BTG programs as a whole, Pierpont is working to establish online components for the courses with content that will be utilized consortium-wide. Quality Matters-certified faculty will review this curriculum once it is complete.
- The ATC has been launched with a complete grand opening in the fall. The ATC will house many BTG programs and students will begin to utilize this facility soon. To assist students with transportation to and from the facility and main campus, a bus schedule was developed.

# SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

### ELECTRO-MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTATION

#### May

One student graduated from the EMI program in March.

### ADVANCED MANUFACTURING/WELDING AND MECHATRONICS

#### May

The Welding team at SkillsUSA took second in a state competition that required students to use all four Welding processes. In addition, two welding students and one Mechatronics student graduated in the spring semester.

#### July

Classes for the Mechatronics and Welding programs continued into the summer. Additionally, the Welding instructor completed a Siemens Level 1 training. Perkins funds was used for this certification.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

#### May

A number of updates/progress has been reported for the IT program, including:

- IT 170 received Quality Matters approval;
- UAV course curriculum is being developed and funding may be available to develop a drone skillset;
- Drones are being used to promote BTG programs;
- The program graduated 11 students in the past month; and
- Guided pathways have been developed for this program.

Southern WV is partnering with Blue Ridge to develop a consortium-wide capstone course that may not be possible so Southern purchased Netlab Appliance to incorporate into existing capstone courses throughout the state.

#### July

Students were enrolled in the program over the summer (two in total) and the agreement with Excelsior College is nearing completion. The transfer guides have been developed and include:

- AAS Nursing to BAS Nursing;
- AAS Board of Governor's to BS Liberal Arts; and
- AAS Criminal Justice to BS Criminal Justice.

IT faculty continue to work on curriculum for the Drone pilot course and plan to utilize BTG funds for this program. The course will be a 10-hour skillset featuring video editing, Photoshop, UAV, and a one-hour lab.

Additionally, many of the IT courses have been Quality Matters certified.

All IT courses have doubled or are at capacity in every section with one course of over 30 students. To date, 10 students have graduated from the IT program.

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### May

Peer coaches are continuing summer registration and beginning fall registration, assisting students with advising, registration, and schedule adjustments. Peer coaches are also assisting with campus tours for high schools, middle schools, and mental health PIVOT programs. To help accommodate the students, two additional peer coaches are being added to the Williamson campus.

Currently, there are 91 participants in the BTG programs.

### July

Peer coaches and counselors have assisted 30-40 students with registration, advising, and testing. Two new peer coaches will be coming on board soon to assist with the influx of students for the fall semester. These peer coaches have completed their training and have already been assisting students. There is also another opening for a peer coach at the Logan campus and staff reported a need to fill this position in the next few weeks.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### May

Three bootcamps are scheduled for the summer months with workshops also being made available. In addition, Southern is offering 2 sessions of co-curricular model courses for general education math this summer.

Data from the spring semester indicated that students that do not require support, 57 percent of students received an "A" grade in English. For students utilizing the co-curricular model, 55 percent of students received a "B" grade in English. However, the data indicated that there was no significant difference in the student's writing samples.

### July

Two Developmental Education Coordinators attended the Student Success Summit in Morgantown to give presentations. Other BTG consortium members and four-year institutions have also reached out to Southern WV to discuss the co-curricular model.

Additionally, four bootcamps have been conducted around ACT prep, math readiness, and technical math since December. However, these bootcamps have experienced significant turnover.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### May

Students from local high schools have been touring the Southern WV campus to learn more about the IT program.

### July

Grant staff reported taking advantage of campus events (i.e., campus tours, student orientation programs, and campus graduation parties) to showcase equipment for BTG programs. Through one event, six students enrolled in the IT program.

The college's general Registration Week event has afforded BTG staff the opportunity to highlight technical programs and recruit students. The President of the college allotted BTG staff two time slots.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### May

Several local businesses attended the IT Advisory Council meeting in April to identify needs in the industry (i.e., Excel experience). The college is beginning to reach out to employers to host a Mechatronics Advisory Council.

### July

Quarterly sector meetings have been difficult for Southern to host but reported a number of industry meetings and connections from other avenues, including:

- A combined Advisory Sector meeting, resulting in four partnerships for the IT program
- Apprenticeship program relationships
- Resource fair with 2,500 total job seekers
- Active relationships with employers and industry partners
- Other events targeting job seekers

## ADDITIONAL UPDATES

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

- Staff are beginning to work on adding BTG programs to the PLA portal with the policy expected to launch by the end of summer. Staff will discuss marketing procedures for prior learning.
- Southern staff continue to work through the Guided Pathways and attended the meetings.

# WEST VIRGINIA NORTHERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

### GENERAL

#### May

All BTG programs have some sort of capstone course to ensure that students are leaving with the core competencies necessary to succeed in the workforce. A number of bridge courses have also been developed for the Chemical Operator and Applied Technology programs to show students the jobs that would be available and what students need to do to obtain those jobs.

### ADVANCED MANUFACTURING/ENERGY

#### May

Revised curriculum will be launched for the Petroleum and Mechatronics programs in the fall. The college reported working with students to ensure that their part-time enrollment status could be accommodated in the fall.

At least three Mechatronics students were hired by a local company prior to program completion. However, instructors worked with these students in the evenings to ensure that the students could complete the program.

Grant staff are continuing to work through the development of a Chemical Operator accelerated program, which is scheduled to begin in early July. Currently, there are nearly 10 students registered for the program. These students are being assessed for any developmental education needs in an effort to be more selective for students enrolling in the program. Because the accelerated format can be difficult for some students, grant staff reported a need to consider the student's GPA and other factors to ensure they are admitting the students that may be the most successful in the program. For the accelerated program, a co-requisite math course will be piloted as well.

In addition, the Chemical Operator instructor located a certification through Crosby, in which the instructor will be receiving a Certificate of Completion. The college anticipates offering this certification with three students planning to receive this certification upon semester completion.

The accelerated Welding program is being offered as non-credit, in which students can receive up to four certifications through AWS and ASME. Beginning in early May, six students were enrolled in this program with another session of the program being offered in early July. The program will also incorporate pipe and plate welding. Staff will examine whether this course generates significant interest to determine if it should be offered in the fall.

#### July

Curriculum for the Chemical Operator program has been updated and started in July and will end in April 2017. The Chemical Operator is a two-year technician program, accelerated for nine months with four, 10-week sessions. Currently, 10 students are enrolled and a Program Director has been hired with a background in the industry. A Program Advisor/Navigator has been hired as well to assist the students throughout their educational experience.

As of June, the Welding program has awarded 30 certifications (AWS or ASME) through Welding Technology and Mechatronics. Additionally, a non-credit Welding program was started in the summer as

an accelerated format. If students wish to continue onto a degree program, prior learning credit will be awarded.

Finally, in the Petroleum program, the instructor has spent the summer researching new certifications. Once certifications are finalized, curriculum will be updated and a final certification exam will be incorporated.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### May

Grant staff have decided to move forward with the Cybersecurity program and are currently training and certifying instructors to teach this program. While the accelerated version of the program will likely be launched after the grant (with pilots currently launched), partnerships with the FBI in Pittsburgh may result in hiring commitments with the program. Grant staff will continue exploring these options.

### July

Staff in IT attended a NASA training for Engineering and Cybersecurity using professional development grant funds. Additionally, PMMI certifications will be offered to students taking electricity courses, which overlaps with a number of programs.

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### May

Peer coaches have started to review the data received on all BTG students from the previous semester. Additionally, the peer coaches are reaching out to students that have not yet registered for fall courses to offer any assistance that is needed.

A part-time peer coach was recently hired for the Chemical Operator program to assist the student in the accelerated program. This peer coach will assist with registration, scheduling, and other needs that the students may have.

### July

A peer coach/advisor for the Chemical Operator program was hired over the summer. The peer coaches have been working to complete files for all grant-funded students and have reached out to students over the summer to make sure a questionnaire has been filled out for every student. Peer coaches have also assisted students with registration.

As the fall semester comes closer, staff are working to ensure that supplemental instructors are identified for technical math and physics courses. These instructors help students pass their core classes.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### May

A technical math developmental education course is being piloted this summer with the accelerated Chemical Operator program. In addition, grant staff are training developmental education English instructors on developing co-requisite programs over the summer. Grant staff anticipate launching this revised model in the fall.

### July

Developmental education math course are currently being piloted in the accelerated Chemical Operator program to ensure students can move into technical math. Students in the Chemical Operator program are taking these developmental education math courses four days per week to accommodate the accelerated nature of the program.

For the fall semester, developmental English courses targeting reading and writing will be piloted. The instructor is currently working to establish a co-requisite model with English and has been trained on this model using grant funds.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### May

Northern staff continue to utilize the recruitment methods that are in place, including: commercials, ads, social media, and recruiter efforts.

### July

Northern staff have worked throughout the summer to market BTG programs and has focused on the accelerated Chemical Operator program. Initially, 20 students were enrolled but could not commit to the accelerated format, leaving 10 students for the fall semester.

Staff have also attended job fairs but without a recruiter specifically for BTG programs, marketing has been difficult. Pushback from college administration has also limited hiring.

An MOU with the local Workforce Development Board enables staff to set up a desk to market and recruit for BTG programs. Northern staff set up at the WDB several times per week.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### May

A number of sector meetings have been completed in Petroleum and other programs to identify resources, potential partnerships, and other opportunities to establish relationships with local employers.

### July

A sector meeting for the Petroleum program took place in May but no other meetings have been scheduled since.

## ADDITIONAL UPDATES

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

- While prior learning is currently provided to students at the college, especially in the Welding program, grant staff continue to develop a formal PLA policy.
- Grant staff continue to prioritize development of Guided Pathways in BTG programs.
- The Instructional Coordinator that was tasked to finalize the PLA website has recently left the college. Northern staff are determining the best route for moving forward.



## **WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AT PARKERSBURG**

### **TECHNICAL PROGRAMS**

#### **GENERAL**

##### **May**

The Electrical Technology and Industrial Safety courses have been removed from the curriculum due to low enrollment. This leaves five BTG programs that are left – Engineering Technology, Industrial Maintenance, Chemical Operations, Welding, and IT.

Online shells have been developed for all of these programs to incorporate hybrid models.

##### **July**

Overall, WVUP has been struggling with low enrollment in BTG programs, especially in the summer.

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

##### **May**

The Welding program utilized BTG funds to modify the existing course and incorporates hands-on experiences that are linked with industry expectations. Grant staff anticipate integrating blueprint reading into the welding course at the associate level.

The E&I and Industrial Maintenance programs both have capstone courses with modifications plan based on the move to online components. Grant staff anticipate that this will allow more students to access content.

The Chemical Operator program is only offered as a certificate so no capstone course exists.

##### **July**

Grant staff anticipate offering an Advanced Instrumentation track with Advanced ENI components. The need for this track was expressed by industry leaders in the region. Curriculum for this track was approved by the college committee with anticipated launch in the spring semester.

Additionally, the Chemical Operator cohort starts in January with recruiting efforts starting in the coming months.

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

##### **May**

The IT program has a number of capstone courses that require students to demonstrate core competencies. The IT capstone in particular is project-based with real-world experiences embedded into the course. Moving forward, grant staff will modify the IT capstone using BTG funds.

#### **CONSTRUCTION**

##### **May**

The Construction program will run another pilot at West Virginia University to ensure that the curriculum meets the students' needs.

##### **July**

There may be plans to repeat the hybrid pilot of the Construction Management Certificate at WVUP. The initial plan was to run the pilot at Northern but due to low enrollment, the pilot will be held elsewhere.

The pilot will be a hybrid model, despite the plan for a fully online program once the program is officially launched, and students will meet three times per week in the classroom.

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### May

The Freshman Seminar is anticipated to launch in Spring 2017 due to challenges locating faculty. In addition, peer coaches continue to serve the needs of students and fills in where the institution may lack (i.e., answering questions when others are not available, etc.).

### July

Peer coaches have continued to assist students and started contacting 'stop-out' students that are a few credits away from graduating to offer assistance.

## DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

### May

Grant staff will be receiving data on the new co-requisite model over the summer to identify modifications that will need to be made for the fall semester. Staff are also reexamining math courses to determine whether the courses should be removed due to the college-wide movement toward technical courses.

### July

Staff are gearing up for a full launch of the Guided Pathways Model for the spring semester, which will include a co-requisite model, career services, and intrusive advising trainings.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

### May

WVUP reported using the consortium and CTE partners to leverage relationships with guidance counselors and teachers offering technical programs at secondary institutions. Grant staff are working toward getting more students taking CTE courses in high school to enroll in college as employers are identifying higher-level skills as a need, which are typically gained through college experience. Staff are working with high schools to create performance indicators that can be measured against enrollment numbers. The goal is a three percent increase in this type of enrollment.

### July

Grant staff reported ongoing challenges in aligning college recruitment efforts with BTG recruitment as the two have naturally different approaches. While the marketing personnel has helped market the BTG programs through radio advertisements, brochures, social media, and other avenues, a recruiting position should be hired and work with the marketing individual to ensure approaches and strategies are aligned.

## INDUSTRY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

### May

Advanced Manufacturing, IT, and Healthcare sector partnerships exist at the college, with the goal of establishing an Energy sector in the coming months. However, staff report that because this industry is not as prevalent in the region, the college has to be strategic in how they establish this group.

## July

WVUP staff have continually emphasized the organic process of engaging employers to date. Staff enable employers to set the meeting agendas and determine what they want to talk about rather than the other way around. This approach has been reportedly beneficial in establishing partnerships with employers and grant staff will continue to utilize this method moving forward.

There have been two manufacturing meetings to date with the next meeting scheduled in the coming months. This meeting will focus on secondary partners to create an open dialogue between employers and educational institutions.

An IT sector meeting involved internet service providers, which was reportedly significant due to the competitive nature between internet service providers and other IT employers. However, grant staff indicated that having these diverse perspectives in the room added a new layer to the conversation and provides WVUP with various options for partnerships (i.e., from small businesses to large businesses).

## **ADDITIONAL UPDATES**

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

- Grant staff reported being behind on PLA implementation, as with the rest of the consortium. However, it was recognized by the consortium leaders at the BTG Quarterly Meeting that business engagement has been a strong component of the grant to date. The consortium, as well as WVUP, will continue to expand business partnerships moving forward.
- The drastic shifts in college leadership have reportedly made it difficult to move forward with grant/programmatic development and implementation. Many of the grant staff's plans have been delayed due to the administrative transitions.
- Blackboard Analytics will roll out in the fall semester.
- Grant staff focused on developing Guided Pathways maps over the summer.