

CT Energy Workforce Development Consortium Meeting Notes

Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 1:00 PM
CBIA, 350 Church Street, Hartford, CT

Attendees: Mary Ann Miller, co-chair (Iroquois), Joe Ryzewski, co-chair (UI), Craig Clark (Eversource), Leticia Colon (Energy Efficiencies Solutions), Andrea Comer (CBIA EF), Mary deManbey (CBIA EF), Peggy Diaz (DEEP), Jennifer Duggan (CBIA EF), John Greeno (NECS), Eric Gribin (NCC), Shelly Jewell (CSCU Board of Regents), Sandi Kelley (Proton Energy), Theresa Lavoie (HPA of CT), Kate Lennon (CT Energy Marketers Assoc.), Diana McCarthy-Bercury (Eversource), Laura Miller (Institute for Sustainable Energy (ECSU), Rich Pearson (OWC Consultant), Lynn Raicik (CCAT), Rosa Schmidt (CEWD) via telephone, Therese Wallace (CBIA EF)

Welcome/Introductions

Energy Workforce Analysis – Phase II

Andrea Comer presented the implementation plans for Phase II of the Energy Workforce Analysis that will be directed by CBIA under the consultancy of Tom Burns. (See posting on the www.getintoenergyCT.com under Resources/Publications).

Rosa Schmidt invited the consortium to link to and/or use any information from the CEWD website for the expansion of getintoenergyCT.com, and noted that their jobs postings section which is automatically updated nightly and the extensive curriculum information may be of particular value. (Note: link is now available to CEWD's website jobs postings on www.getintoenergyct.com/careers/career-information/getintoenergy.com.)

CT Clean Trades Program

Mary deManbey gave an overview of the first 2 years of the CT Clean Trades Program. Diana McCarthy-Bercury reported on the curriculum piloted with four technical high schools in four trade areas (carpentry, plumbing, HVAC and electric) and how what they learned from the work will be incorporated into the next phase of the program. She discussed specific goals related to the overall mission of helping prepare students to be successful upon graduation whether they choose to go to college or to move directly into the workplace. Diana will provide an outline of the next steps for this phase to the consortium members and asked for the help of industry partners in identifying what new skills students will need to be trained in to accommodate the ever-changing industry. The need for remediation resources was immediately identified, especially in the areas of asbestos, lead and mold.

Co-Chairs Reports

Joe Ryzewski reported on the key items discussed at the regional meeting for the Center for Energy Workforce Development that he attended in July (see Attachment).

Mary Ann Miller relayed that the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services has granted \$14 million to The Workplace in Bridgeport to help lower-income people and the long-term unemployed pursue careers in the health care industry and said that she would like to see similar funding initiatives for energy workforce development. She also called the group's attention to an article in October 12th's Hartford Business Journal entitled "Manufacturing looks to inner-city schools for workforce." In 10 years, 35 percent of Connecticut's population will be aged 55 or older so manufacturers are looking to Connecticut's cities, which have significantly younger populations than the suburbs, for prospective workers.

Discussion of additional topics

- Energy is a dynamic industry so there is a need to provide interchangeable skill sets when training workers for the industry that not only include technical skills but also soft skills, such as communication, timeliness, etc.
- Suggestion to invite Don Shubert and Kathy Marioni (CT D.O.L.) to speak at the next meeting about attracting workforce using social media.
- Theresa Lavoie asked members for suggestions to help expand their outreach to potential candidates for the ENTECH training programs.
- Joe Ryzewski read Governor Malloy's official proclamation that October 12 -18, 2015 is Careers in Energy Week.
- Eric Gribin would like to help the consortium align its efforts with those of the national level and he would like to get more people involved from the commercial energy sector. He is looking to expand the BEST program from Norwalk Community to other community colleges in the state. They will be working with Karen Birch on a grant that was received from DEEP to implement a two-year program on energy analysis for commercial buildings.
- Peggy Diaz said that DEEP is running pilot programs on shared solar and energy distribution.
- Rich Pearson discussed a federal grant to help states design a strategic plan to coordinate job development activity within their state. He and Andrea will work on how CTEWDC can be incorporated into the industry partnership aspects of the grant.
- Andrea Comer reported that CBIA will be identifying companies from stakeholder groups to participate in the Governor's Council on Climate Change initiative.

Next Meeting – January 19, 2016, 1:00-3:00 PM, CBIA Conference Room