

CT Energy Workforce Development Consortium (CEWDC) Meeting Notes
Thursday, March 31, 2016 at 1:00 PM

Attendees:

Mary Ann Miller, co-chair (Iroquois), Joe Ryzewski, co-chair (United Illuminating), Merilee Baker Roussat (Gateway Community College), Andrea Comer (CBIA), Peggy Diaz (CT DEEP), Leticia Colon (Energy Efficiencies Solutions), Bonnie Del Conte (CONNSTEP), Casey Dilzer (GEW), John Greeno (New England Conservation Services), Eric Gribin (Tunxis Community College), Shelly Jewell (CSCU), Theresa LaVoie (Home Performance Alliance of CT), Laura Miller (Institute for Sustainable Energy), Lisa Sarubbi via phone (UIL Holdings), Therese Wallace (CBIA)

Welcome/Introductions

Energy Management Program

Eric Gribin, Director, BEST Programs, Tunxis Community College, presented information about the mission of the Institute for Building Efficiency & Sustainable Technology (iBEST) and its relationship to the current development of a 2-year Applied Associate of Science Degree in Energy Management in the state of Connecticut. (See attachment.)

SWOT Analysis Continued

Members reviewed the compilation of the Consortium's strengths and weaknesses from last meeting's SWOT analysis. Mary Ann Miller led a discussion of ideas for capitalizing on the organization's strengths and minimizing weaknesses.

The following were identified as the top three strengths:

- Diversity of energy industry members; state agencies are well represented
- Provider of real-time data regarding state's energy workforce
- State policy is supportive of/aligned with mission of CEWDC

To capitalize on those strengths:

- Dig deeper into the needs of individual sectors and how CEWDC can help address them
- Help alleviate obstacles to doing business in Connecticut vs. neighboring states
- Communicate the needs of the energy sectors to Connecticut legislators including submission of a formal request to incorporate a stable funding source into the state's three-year plan
- Broadcast real-time data and report specific outcomes to a wider audience

Members talked about the following weaknesses with further discussion to be scheduled for the next meeting:

- Lack of a vibrant strategic plan
- Need to find ways to show return on investment for energy efficiency and renewables; highlight cost savings to businesses; emphasize earth stewardship
- All meetings may not be relevant to such a diverse group – perhaps break sessions into smaller groups around energy sectors

Joe Ryzewski reported on the 1st Quarter update from the State Energy Workforce Consortia (see attachment) and invited everyone to consider attending the New England Consortia meeting in Long Island City on July 25-26, 2016.

Action items:

- Leticia Colon and Laura Miller to create report of CEWDC's achievements in the past 5 years connecting it with current demand and workforce development as well as the findings of the Energy Workforce Analysis report by Tom Burns. Opportunities for submitting CEWDC's report include the Governor's Climate Council in April and the GC3 meeting on May 5.
- Consortium members to prepare for discussions at next meeting regarding:
 - Further SWOT analysis (specifically, addressing weaknesses)
 - Update of website
 - Developing a comprehensive list of events where CEWDC should have a presence
 - Creating marketing plan

Next Meeting – June 16, 2016, 1:00 PM to 2:45 PM

The following are highlights from the conference call – Joe Ryzewski

1. Exec Director Report

- a. On 3/15/16 the Board and Council started a Strategic Plan update to identify game changers in our area
- b. Hot topics include Cyber and Physical Security (new skills required) along with Aging workforce
- c. Regional 1st Robotics
- d. New format for Regional meetings will include ½ day hands on workshops preceding them (e.g. Women & Girls, Workforce planning)
- e. CEWD has provided support to Consortia for laying out their Strategic Plans Each CEWD liaison and Consortium lead reported on their efforts and plans. Ann noted the importance to lay out a plan and do what you can do. Rosa noted Sally Lagner – Mid Atlantic (12 Members in 5 States) hoped to share best practices (e.g. Wise Program) in a series of press releases; but couldn't get agreement from Corporate side.
- f. CEWD has issued statewide demand data generated from DOL sources. This needs to be reviewed carefully to ensure it accurately reflects forecasts in your State.
- g. Rosa noted
 - i. The critical importance to get buy-in from Senior Leadership using CEWD info and a consistent process to get them on the same page.
 - ii. Support is being focused on helping The New York Troops to energy jobs initiative get on track.

2. Consortia Updates

- a. Ct Consortium- Joe complemented Rosa Schmidt for her support at their meeting in January in conducting a SWOT analysis. She noted how well established they are and need to ensure continuity. We plan to build upon that work at our next meeting in March to develop our plan to address the demands and challenges we face in the State. He also noted that his company recently celebrated "National Engineers Week", Pi Day on March 14th and helping judge at the 68th Annual CT Science and Engineering Fair March 16 & 17, 2016. Plans are underway for participating in an annual "Construction Rodeo" where high school students will be introduced to the career opportunities in the trades, line work, gas technicians, etc.
- b. Wisconsin is building upon their Strategic plan and developing strong relationships with educators and enhancing the Executive Committee by inviting others to the ranks. (e.g. Educators, Municipalities) They noted the importance to demonstrate value. They are reviewing the forecasted demands to communicate to the schools of what the needs are and career opportunities.
- c. Louisiana is working to find common initiatives (e.g. Workforce Investment)
- d. Colorado – Assembling a benchmark regarding the Military workforce investment board and outreach

- e. California – They are working on their Strategic Plan focused on improving common employability skills and completing their Careers in Energy Contest to align with the 2016 October event. They are exploring the CEWD Boot Camp model. Jason is working with Barbara of Washington State for conducting an active service boot camp (last 90 days to discharge) to prepare them for employability
- f. New Mexico – Leadership changes are underway
- g. Arizona – Leadership is shifting from Federal grants to other sources.
- h. Washington State- IBEW, Utilities, PG&E and Bate college have collaborated to reach out to active service boot camp (last 90 days to discharge) to prepare them for employability. It has generate
- i. Northwest – Regional meeting upcoming
- j. North / South Dakota – They have a new group and a draft Strategic Plan. They will be developing Action Plans to meet Objectives at their next meeting in April. The presence of educators and industry is beneficial
- k. Florida – They are officially a 501.3c to be able to fund their work. Membership has increased. They established a new executive committee in January and plan to gather teachers together for two days in June to tell them about the various resources available. They established a teacher externship program. Check out their website for further details!
- l. Virginia – 2016 Goals include conducting a member survey, one of their community colleges launched a 10 week line worker program. Two other community colleges will offer an Energy Studies course based upon CEWD Fundamental and power curriculum. Several high schools are looking to embrace the curriculum too. They are working with others to develop an Energy &Technology track degree and a DOE energy cluster. Their Department of Veteran’s affairs has good programs similar to CEWD Troops to Energy. He noted the need for a communication committee to get into social media, press releases, internet..... to tell their story.
- m. West Virginia – There is need for a consortia
- n. Georgia – They are focusing on branding, enhancing their scholarship program and process.
- o. Nebraska – They are expanding the Women’s in the Trade “Tool Kit” program in 2016. Their Society of Engineers did a contest in area schools during National Engineers Week, visited schools, etc.
- p. Missouri – No update
- q. Minnesota - They conduct monthly steering committees and an April consortium meeting. They are planning a two day workshop with educators to inform them of the materials and career opportunities available. They are equipping an energy training trailer. Three urban high schools will be involved in a Legacy pilot project (developed by Dion Clark) to help under-served youth with character development, career prep, making right choices, etc.