
The Trans-Atlantic Technology & Training Alliance: Looking Back, Thinking Forward

Hosted by Tampere
College
Tampere, Finland
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U.S. Economy ↓



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Current membership from...

- US
- Denmark
- Finland
- Ireland
- Germany
- Spain
- South Africa

Secretariats
CIRIUS (Europe)
RTS (N. America)


CIRIUS



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What are U.S. community colleges?

- Community colleges
 - are post-secondary institutions that offer mainly less-than--baccalaureate credentials
 - have multiple missions—including economic development
 - are open to everyone and low cost
 - are community based



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Community colleges serve regional residents, workforce, & businesses

- Target regional economies
- Create pipeline for new workers
- Offer second chance to adults
- Upgrade skills, assess needs, set skill standards
- Disperse information
- Network and refer to other services
- Provide culture and cultural events



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TA3 "Value Added"

- Shared knowledge
- Learning & innovation
- Faculty & student exchanges
- Comparative research projects
- International technical assistance teams
- Joint educational R&D
- Mutual understanding of cultures and economies



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Shared learning

EU > US

- Nat'l skill standards
- Apprenticeship
- School to work
- Manufacturing extension
- Training networks
- Clusters

US > EU

- Entrepreneurial education
- Incubators
- Technology Centers
- Business & Ind. Programs
- Flexibility
- Private industry Councils



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Past TA3 "Themes"

- Industrial modernization/SMEs
- Inter-firm collaboration/training networks
- Entrepreneurial education
- Web-based learning/IT education
- Responses to industry clusters
- Developing creativity



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The TA3 sponsors regular symposia with topical themes



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TA3 int'l conferences & meetings

- Two-Year Colleges on the Cutting Edge (Memphis, TN '93)
- Facing the Future (Orlando, FL '96)
- Connecting to Community (Glasgow, Scotland, '96)
- New Paths to New Skills (Washington, DC, 5/12, '97)
- Education in an Entrepreneurial Economy (Galway, Ireland, '98)
- Learning.now (Chapel Hill, NC '98)
- Networking Colleges (Kuopio, Finland, '99)
- Alliances that Work (Louisville, KY '00)
- Digital Economy (Glasgow, Scotland '01)
- Colleges in a Changing World (New Orleans, LA '01)
- Entrepreneurial Education (Sønderborg, Denmark '02)
- Improving Access (Green Bay, WI '03)
- Recruitment and Entrepreneurship (Vienna, Austria, '04)
- Globalization (Seattle, '05)
- Community Colleges in Creative Economies (Asheville, '04)
- Soft Skills (Berlin, '05)
- Creative minds (Whitefish, MT, '06)
- Regional development (Galway, IR, '07)
- Changing workforce (Columbia, MD '08)



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Past and current TA3 projects

- Innovative approaches (Sloan)
- Learning & Innovation Networks (Ford, USED, NSF)
- Faculty and student exchanges (GMF)
- Forums / Conferences on emerging issues (Multiple)
- Accelerated learning networks (Ford)
- Documenting best practices (USDA)
- Benchmark cluster hubs (Sloan)
- IT education comparison (FIPSE)



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Examples of Faculty Exchanges

US College	Non US College	Area
Guilford TCC, NC	EUC-Syd, DK	Culinary, auto
Howard CC, MD	Niels Brock, DK	IT
Bellingham CC, WA	EUC-Syd, Tampere	Instrumentation
Haywood CC, NC	LUC, DK	Manufacturing
Gadsden State CC, AL	Kuopio IT, FI	Engineering Tech
Guilford TCC, NC, Kentucky System	Siemens College	Auto
Patrick Henry CC, VA	Esayidi FET, S. Africa	Crafts



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Recent areas of interest for TA3

- Entrepreneurial skills
- Cluster & sector approaches
- Expanding internships/externships
- Building on creativity
- Establishing learning & innovation networks



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Promoting international learning & innovation through networks and exchange

- Learning is an interactive, collective process
- Exposure to benchmark practices stimulates innovation and improvement
- Community college staff have few opportunities to meet and interact with peers
- Challenges that individual colleges and their students face are rarely unique
- International experiences expand horizons and multiply opportunities for learning
- International networking contributes to understanding and tolerance



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Networks initiated/planned

Operating networks

- CraftNet
- Medical Device Industry & Education Consortium
- Learning through Information Technology Enterprises
- Media Arts Alliance
- Auto Supply Collaborative
- Sustainability/Environmental Network

Anticipated

- Wood Products/Furniture Design
- Specialty foods & culinary arts



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