

TA³ Connections

July 2009 Volume 12. No. 2

The Trans-Atlantic Technology & Training Alliance is an international network of community, technical, and further education colleges from the United States, western Europe, and South Africa dedicated to learning, innovation, and collaboration. For more information about the TA³ see <http://www.ta3online.org>.



TA3 2010: Western North Carolina

Save the Date: **Haywood Community College** in Clyde, North Carolina will be hosting the next 2010 TA3 symposium and meeting April 25-28, 2010. The theme will be **Educating for Sustainable Development**. Events will focus on expanding roles for community colleges in educating students for, and local businesses about, opportunities in alternative energy, conservation, preservation, and local products. It will build on a new program funded by the Ford Foundation to establish a learning and innovation network of community colleges in central Appalachia that will work together to support sustainable economies and balance economic, social, and environmental outcomes.

TA3 2009: Tampere, Finland

The TA3 held its 2009 meeting in **Tampere, Finland** May 3-6. The symposium focused on the theme "**New Learning Environments and Cultural Differences**." The meetings and the site visits were exceptionally well organized and run by Marjut Salminen and Tampere College and she and the school get well-deserved kudos. Members from seven countries took part in the three



TA3 members tour Tampere College facilities.

plus days of professional, business, and cultural events. The full agenda and many of the powerpoints from the symposium



Bente Lyck-Damgaard, Vice Principal at EUC-Syd in Sønderborg, Demark taking her turn learning to drive a log hauler at Forest College in Kuru, Finland.

are available on the TA3 web site at <http://www.ta3online.org>.

TA3 members toured the very well-equipped engineering and design programs at Tampere College and then traveled to the Kuru Forest College—where some members had the opportunity to test-drive log haulers—very carefully! The TA3 business meeting was held at the college and concluded with a discussion on strategic directions led by members from EUC-Syd and EUC Vest. On the last day, members visited Tampere University of Technology and Hermia Technology Center, an institution that facilitates technology transfer.

As a follow-on to the meeting in Tampere, **Marjut Salminen** from Tampere College will be visiting **Anna Szabados** at the Northern California New Media Center to develop plans for collaboration.

Congratulations to:

- **Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover**, TA3 member as Provost and Chief Academic Officer of Elizabethtown Community and Technical College in Kentucky, who has been named President of Eastern Shore Community College in Virginia.
- **Dr. Keith Bird** on his retirement from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. Keith, who has contributed so much to the TA3, will become a Senior Fellow for Workforce and Postsecondary Education for the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce.
- **Dr. Jay Box** has been named Chancellor of Kentucky Community and Technical College System replacing Keith. Jay, a native Texan, had been in the system office and previously was an active TA3 and CraftNet member as President of Kentucky's Hazard Community and Technical College.
- **Dr. Jim Jacobs**, President of Macomb Community College, for hosting President Obama's announcement on July 14 of his new community college initiative. The

President laid out a \$12 billion proposed initiative with grants to states and institutions aimed at improving learning, training, and completion rates and better tracking student progress. He also stressed his support for a \$10 billion loan program to renovate and rebuild college classrooms and buildings.

Notes from the Field under a New Administration: In lieu of the annual federal policy forum, this year RTS staff traveled to Washington, DC in June to meet with key officials to get an idea of policy directions and grant opportunities. The overall news from the agencies is that the FY2010 Budget Proposal is for level funding or some slight increases. There are grant opportunities for community colleges in all three agencies, including Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grants that focus on technician education in two-year colleges, three grants programs at FIPSE: grants for community colleges to prepare displaced workers for second careers; a college course materials rental initiative; and a special focus competition for programs in institutions of higher education serving Hispanic Americans, and several grants opportunities from USDOL-ETA on preparing workers for green jobs, training in health care professions and advanced manufacturing, and another round of community-based job training Initiatives to prepare workers for high-growth technology-based careers. A detailed paper will be distributed to TA3 members summarizing these opportunities.

The **National Governors Association's Center for Best Practices** held its second experts' roundtable on "Increasing Postsecondary Attainment by Adult Workers" on July 15 in Washington, DC. Stuart Rosenfeld, Keith Bird, and long-time TA3 advisor and friend Phyllis Eisen (co-founder of the National Center for Business Champions) were among the approximately two dozen participants. The group discussed potential state policies in the areas of financing mechanisms, service delivery models, support services, and performance tracking measures that will ultimately lead to recommendations, state summits, learning labs, and a governors' guide.

Network News

CraftNet co-sponsored the 2009 annual meeting of the **Craft Organization Development Association** in St. Paul, Minnesota, April 25-27. The theme, "**Crafting Partnerships for Growth**," showcased the potential of connections to community colleges. As part of the conference agenda, CraftNet unveiled its "**ecommerce for Artists**" curriculum, a new teaching resource developed by a working group of CraftNet member colleges. The curriculum is organized around 100 fundamental questions that artists are likely to ask as they pursue the goal of establishing an effective entrepreneurial presence on the Web. The curriculum is now available for online viewing or as a free PDF download at CraftNet's new website: www.craftnetglobal.com. The website also displays art work produced at CraftNet member colleges, as well as descriptive information about each college and the particular culture of its local community. The **Appalachian Regional Commission** provided financial support for the project, which produced both the curriculum and the website.

Publications, conferences, and research

New Skills for New Jobs: Anticipating and Matching Labour Market and Skills Needs was released by the European Union's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities in April. Projecting out to 2020, the report examines changes in occupations, skills, and characteristics of the working population brought about by the greening of the economy, gender imbalances, and continuing technological change, especially in ICT. It ends with suggestions for stronger international cooperation in forecasting methods and research. The English version of the publication can be downloaded at <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en>

Community Colleges and One-Stop Centers Collaborate to Meet 21st Century Workforce Needs: This GAO report examined four questions: (1) how community colleges meet the workforce training needs of their communities (2) what community colleges do to integrate with the nation's one-stop system (3) the conditions or practices that enhance or impeded these efforts and (4) the actions the Department of Labor have taken to encourage linkages between community colleges and the workforce investment system, including one-stops. To address these questions GAO visited 20 community colleges, surveyed one-stop centers and their associated workforce investment boards, and talked to labor and Education officials. GAO found many examples of integrated services, but found that Community Colleges faced two barriers: the WIA performance system measures, and the targeting on difficult-to-serve populations such as disadvantaged youth and those receiving TANF. The full report can be accessed by <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08547.pdf>.

Conferences: The National Network of Sector Partners will hold its 2009 National Conference at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, November 10-13. NNSP offers important information about workforce development efforts focused on particular industry sectors. For more information about NNSP and the conference, you can visit <http://www.insightccd.org/index.php?page=nnspp>

TA3 member profile: Guilford Technical Community College, Jamestown, North Carolina

TA3 members strive to promote regional economic development with a global perspective, and Guilford Technical Community College is no exception. Located in Jamestown, N.C. in the heart of the state's Piedmont Triad Region, the college was more or less forced to think globally about a decade ago when the region's textile and low-end furniture jobs fled overseas.

The college has since become a dynamic force for its regional economy, attracting businesses, constantly updating curriculum, and adopting new programs to suit the employment needs of its local community. GTCC President Donald Cameron keeps a

close pulse on those needs as vice-chairman of the High Point Economic Development Council and member of the Greensboro Economic Development Alliance.

In those capacities he's helped pull global companies into the region, including the world headquarters of Honda Jet Aircraft and the mid-Atlantic hub of FedEx. Once the companies are there, the college churns out programs that train local residents to fill their job openings: When Honda came into town, two faculty members went to Nevada to upgrade their skills in aircraft composites.

"Businesses and communities need community colleges, and they're not going to wait for us to form committees or to take months to narrow down curriculum options," Cameron said. "To use an old cliché, we have to be able to turn on a dime."



The Luther R. Medlin Center on the GTCC campus.

One GTCC plan in the works is a Piedmont Triad Aerotropolis: The college is partnering with other local colleges and universities to make the region a major East Coast logistics and distribution center.

And faculty and administrators are thinking fast to help local residents get through the recession. One program already in place is Quick Jobs, which offers training in 90 days or less to help people get a new job or start their own business. The college is also offering brand-new real estate courses to help students take advantage of the emerging emphasis on green building techniques.

"We just make sure that we are responsive," Cameron said. "We see GTCC as a major player in economic development, and we have to meet the needs of our community."