



TRANS-ATLANTIC
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TA³ Connections

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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>.

**Register Now
for
Supporting Sustainable Communities:
Opportunities and Challenges for Community Colleges
April 26-27, 2010
Asheville, North Carolina**

Sustainability will be the theme of the TA3's 2010 symposium and meeting, which will be hosted by TA3 member Haywood Community College.

With sustainability and green energy solutions set to play a critical role in the growth of our national economy, community colleges represent a way to meet the needs of local businesses and residents. An international symposium in Asheville, North Carolina in April 2010 will bring together experts and practitioners from the U.S. and Europe to highlight expanded roles for colleges in educating students, businesses, and communities about and for economic opportunities in renewable energy, conservation, ecotourism, and local sustainable agriculture and manufacturing.

Speakers representing colleges from the U.S., Denmark, Germany, Greece, Finland, Spain, and Ireland plus the public, private, and non-profit sectors will discuss skill needs for new green-oriented industries and sustainable practices in other sectors including agriculture, natural resources and manufacturing; ways to enhance local and sustainable agriculture, natural resources, and crafts; and plans to make campuses models of sustainability.

Registration information is available at <http://www.ta3online.org/>

Member News

Mission College and “Design for the Common Good”

The TA3 and the Northern California New Media Center were instrumental in establishing an educational partnership between Mission College and Business Academy Copenhagen North. Teams of Danish and American students are working together in Silicon Valley to prepare design work for non-profit, non-religious organizations in the community. The client list this semester includes a number of educational institutions, health and environmental organizations and animal protection agencies.

The course titled “The Agency” is a capstone class in the award winning Graphic Design and Multimedia program at Mission College. The teams are formed based on interests in specific social issues. Team portfolios are prepared and the students are taught the art of getting clients, including cold calling and sales presentation techniques. Teams meet with clients several times during the project development to make sure that the design direction is correct and the client feels involved in the process and with their instructor twice a week to review the design work and make changes based on input both from the instructor and fellow students.

The Danish design students are spending one semester at the college. Students focus on Web design, Web animation and The Agency class gaining some practical experience and real world projects to include in their portfolios. For more information about the content and structure of the course, contact Dr. Anna Szabados, Director, Northern California New Media Center at anna_szabados@wvm.edu.

Building a “Culinary Bridge” for students from Tampere, through Europe, to the U.S.

Marjut Salminen has initiated a project among TA3 members to promote locally grown food. With a grant from Finland’s National Board of Education, TA3 member Tampere College will work with EUC-Syd in Denmark and Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn to develop a way for students to learn about gastronomy, local and seasonal foods, food festivals, and customs from other places, ways to work with local enterprises, and the entrepreneurial skills to start and operate a business. The learning environment will be Moodle. In the program called “Themes, Dreams, and Schemes,” students will learn about local flavors and uses of reindeer, mushrooms, and berries in Finland, cheese and sandwiches in Denmark, and seafood in the U.S. Marjut will present this program at the April symposium.



Students at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College spread solar energy across the state

Students at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College have added an unusual tool to the College's Renewable Energy training programs by building a hands-on solar lab. They work on an operating solar system. Whereas most solar training only allows students to view and inspect existing operating systems, here they work on operating systems. Students in NWTC's first Photovoltaic-Advanced class installed a 5.2KW solar system on an asphalt-shingled roof on campus. Future Advanced Photovoltaic classes will expand the lab with systems including an installation on a standing seam metal roof, an installation on a flat roof, and a pole mounted application.

Solar students are also helping others investigate solar power opportunities. The Solar Site Assessment class has contributed work for a local library and for Options for Independent Living. The college is in its second year of offering classes in solar technology, site assessment, and installation. The Photovoltaic Design and Site Assessment Class and the Photovoltaic Advanced Class are recognized by Focus on Energy's Qualified Installer Program and the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioner Entry Level Certification.



New Renewable Energy Programs in Michigan

TA3 member **Macomb Community College** is now offering courses and a certificate program in renewable energy. The courses are intended to prepare students interested in harnessing renewable energy as well as developing expertise in green building and design. Students can choose among or combine a variety of courses in wind energy, solar energy, biomass technology, geothermal energy, and hydrogen and fuel cell technology. Courses are also offered in hybrid electric vehicle technology and diagnostics.

The certificate program at Macomb allows students working towards an associate's degree of applied science to specialize in renewable energy technology. Training in the renewable energy technology program combines hands-on laboratory experience with current industry processes while stressing the importance of fundamental scientific principles. The renewable energy technology certificate requires the student to complete 15 hours of coursework.

Kingsborough Community College's Virtual Enterprise

City University of New York's (CUNY) Kingsborough Community College has adapted its innovative entrepreneurial pedagogy, the virtual enterprise, to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) students. Supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, KCC will hold a workshop on February 8 and 9 for faculty in biotech and information technology programs. Sessions will cover the virtual enterprise concept, simulated exercises, group discussions, and specific adaptations to biotech and IT. For information contact CZagari@kbcc.cuny.edu.

Learning from trees at Flathead Community College

Through a partnership with GreenWood Resources of Portland, Oregon, Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) in Kalispell, Montana, launched a poplar tree test site on its campus in the summer of 2009. The 1,292 planted trees of 96 varieties are being used for a five-year study to measure which adapt to the area's climate and which produce the largest amounts of biomass. FVCC students in natural resources and statistics courses and the service learning program have utilized the site for learning and community service. According to retired Business Administration and Management Instructor Tom Jay, the test site provides a venue for researching and teaching.

"The site provides students with a living laboratory to study natural resources and biology. As one of 13 test sites in the western United States and the only test site in Montana, we welcome all high school science classes and other postsecondary institutions in Montana to take advantage of this unique learning experience."



FVCC also is in the process of implementing two new programs, a welding technology certificate and welding and inspection technology associate of applied science degree. As part of the welding and inspection technology curriculum, the college will introduce non-destructive testing, a process that is used to verify the integrity of welded works to ensure they are created to proper specification. <<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/fatigue.html>> effects, structural flaws and other possible defects <<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/defect.html>> .

Kentucky School of Bluegrass and Traditional Music

The first class in **Hazard Community and Technical College's** new Kentucky School of Bluegrass and Traditional Music graduated last May, with a kick-off concert for the

American Bluegrass Masters Tour at the downtown amphitheater in Hazard. In November, the students were featured in the syndicated show "Backporch Gospel," which reaches 2.4 million homes in five states.

Network News

CraftNet

The December 2009 edition of CraftNet Sketches is available on line at <http://rtsinc.org/networks/documents/Sketches1209.pdf>. The year-end issue features articles about member highlights, including TA3 members Haywood Community College in North Carolina and Flathead Community College in Montana. Members have completed a web gallery and online curriculum to teach artists how to use ecommerce, accessible at <http://www.craftnetglobal.com>.



Alliance for Sustainability

The newly formed Alliance for Sustainability, supported by a grant from the Ford Foundation, held its first meeting in Charleston, West Virginia in December and will meet in Knoxville, Tennessee in February. This network of 16 community colleges, primarily from Appalachia but extending west to Iowa and east to Denmark, has formed to learn from one another and external experts. The colleges will work collectively and individually to introduce new ideas into the curricula and community that involve forms of renewable energy, energy conservation and efficiency, and local agriculture and production aligned with local talents and markets. TA3 members in this network are Haywood Community College, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, and EUC-Syd.



The network is working in particular with environmental organizations, non-profits, and cooperative extension services. EUC-Syd is participating in the network and expects to develop a joint project with U.S. members around green building.

Member Profiles

The Greening of a Region: EUC-Syd, Sønderborg, Denmark

Since becoming Denmark's primary electronics college in 1956, CraftNet member EUC Syd has trained the talented workforce that's driven innovation in its region's electronics industry, starting the new companies that have spurred that industry's considerable growth and filling the job opportunities that have sprung up as a result. The college's close relationship with local companies and its familiarity with evolving industry needs is in keeping with the Ministry of Education's decades-old demand that Danish colleges develop areas of concentration that reflect their local economies.

"EUC Syd delivers, together with the local companies, a highly qualified workforce, which is fundamental and crucial for the regional economy and growth," said Hans Lehmann, a vice principal at the college. "The relationship between the local industries and EUC Syd is very close."

EUC Syd has eight different sites, located in four towns in the South Jutland region of Denmark. The college has had a significant influence in developing the region's reputation as a center for high-technology industries, and it's poised to play a leading role in the area's newest economic vision—carbon neutrality. Sønderborg, home to one of EUC Syd's campuses, has launched an initiative called Project Zero that aims to make the municipality carbon-neutral by 2030. It's an ambitious goal that's garnered the support of local companies, the public sector, educational institutions and energy suppliers.

As part of the initiative, EUC Syd already is changing the way it does business. All new buildings will be constructed as models of sustainability, and carbon neutrality will be a goal for all faculty and students. Beginning this year, students will be offered a special sustainability certificate, and Lehmann said he expects EUC Syd will play an important role in providing the new qualifications and competencies needed to make the region a hub for clean technology.

"Sønderborg and the region cannot be the next Silicon Valley, but perhaps it could be the next 'Cleantech Valley,'" he said.

The speed and commitment with which EUC Syd has adopted the Project Zero goals is testament to the college's role in cultivating regional talent to take the lead on global economic issues. A priority at EUC Syd is introducing students to international culture and ideas -- the college's international department prepares students and faculty to go abroad, network with international peers, and keep track of international meetings and conferences.

"It is of great importance for EUC Syd that we, in as many ways as possible, can facilitate students and motivate them to gain international knowledge and experiences, both by sending them abroad and also by bringing international perspectives into the daily education at the college," Lehmann said. "Our perspectives and views do not stop at the Danish border but widen out to Europe and the rest of the world."

Building a Reputation for Excellence: Gateway Community and Technical College

Gateway Community and Technical College, in Covington, Kentucky, doesn't have a long legacy of driving its local economy or training its local workers. It can't boast any real traditions, because it hasn't been around long enough to form any. Gateway's full impact on its community has yet to be realized, and President Ed Hughes likes it that way.

"Our community 10 years ago didn't even know we existed," Hughes said, in reference to the time before the college became Gateway. "Then eight years ago we became something of a novelty act -- people thought, 'It's probably good we have one of those.' Today we are much better known as a place where businesses can come get good training to increase their bottom line, and where people can earn degrees that will significantly increase their chances of finding high-paying jobs."

The relatively new college, with five campuses in Northern Kentucky, is the fastest growing in the state's community and technical college system and has the seventh-highest growth rate nationwide among colleges in its category. Gateway already is geared to be a significant player in its local economy: A regional plan calls for 50,000 new jobs in the area by 2015, and the college is expected to be the training and education force behind 75 percent of those jobs.

And, in keeping with Gateway's membership in TA3, the college's board of directors has recently adopted a new vision statement that emphasizes the push to provide a globally competitive education. Hughes said global awareness and international education are especially important considering the number of foreign-owned companies in Northern Kentucky, including Toyota, Hyundai and Mazak.

"We believe there's a good opportunity for our students to not only fill those jobs here, but to eventually be part of their corporate worldwide offices," Hughes said. "And it just makes our community a richer place, when we're a global community."

Pursuing opportunities for global collaboration is one of many ways the college's leadership is constantly innovating. As a new college, Gateway is perhaps better equipped than most to read the needs of its local residents and businesses and to craft new ventures that meet them.

"There isn't a lot of tradition that bogs us down; we're creating our own traditions, and we're a fast and dynamic institution," Hughes said. "It's a fun place to be."