

TA3 Connections

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**Danish Agency
for
Higher Education**

The [TA3 \(Trans-Atlantic Technology and Training Alliance\)](#) is a membership consortium of leading community and technical colleges, and several state system offices, in the U.S. and Europe and South that promotes community colleges' efforts to support their regional economies, and promotes the value and importance of a global perspective on community college missions.

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TA3 Delegates experience culture, camaraderie and learning exchange in historic Belfast

Delegates from the Trans-Atlantic Technology and Training Alliance (TA3) met in Belfast, United Kingdom for the Alliance's annual symposium and explored how to prepare for the future global economy through employer and educator partnerships. Hosted by the Northern Ireland Department for Employment and Learning, delegates and speakers were treated to a mix of robust learning and cultural exchange, sightseeing opportunities and historical experiences.

An open bus tour of Belfast kicked off the four-day event, followed by a networking reception at Crumlin Road Gaol (Prison). The conference featured keynote speakers from the U.S. and Europe, representing a wide variety of government agencies, policy experts, and educational institutions. Afternoon workshops provided further interaction and discussion among group members on the following topics:

- Qualifications, Competencies and Credentials,
- Making Apprenticeships work at SMEs,
- Matching Labor Demand and Supply, and
- Successful Models of College-Business Partnerships.

When the day ended, delegates and speakers were treated to local music and dinner at Stormont, the parliament building in Belfast. Minister of Employment and Learning Stephan Farry hosted the event and concluded the evening with an informative and entertaining tour of the building, including the assembly and senate chambers.

At the annual business meeting the next day, delegates discussed potential international collaborative projects, exchanged ideas about current and emerging issues for educational leadership, faculty, and students, and announced the 2016 symposium, which will be hosted by Lawson State Community College, in Birmingham, Alabama. Prior to lunch, a heartfelt moment of recognition was given to acknowledge Stuart Rosenfeld, as the leader and visionary of TA3, for his years of dedication to the formation and sustainability of the TA3 US and Europe. A beautifully engraved glass vase from Belleek, Northern Ireland was given to Stu from CSW to honor of his commitment and ongoing contribution!



Stu Rosenfeld and Burke Murphy

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On the third day, delegates participated in campus tours, including Norbrook Laboratories in Newry, which has grown to be one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies specializing in the development of veterinary and animal health medicines. Delegates were able to meet two apprentices during the tour. Apprenticeships was a central theme at this year's event and cited as a key component of building the future global workforce.

Many thanks to our gracious hosts, Michael Gould, Minister Stephen Farry and their teams for hosting a spectacular and unforgettable event.

More photos and coverage on the [TA3 website](#) and Colleges Northern Ireland [website](#)!

TA3 Members and Friends in the News

To address growing concerns about mid-skilled labor market shortage, various TA3 members and friends took part in a **Symposium on the Supply Chain for Middle-Skill Jobs: Education, Training, and Certification Pathways** hosted by the National Academy of Engineering hosted, held on June 24 and 25 at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC. Experts from across the U.S. discussed and debated programs aimed at the mid-skilled work force, including career and technical education, apprenticeships, and community college programs. The Academy's Committee on this topic—which will produce a report at the conclusion of its information gathering process—is chaired by former TA3 Board member and Director of the Center for Community College Research at Teachers College, Tom Bailey. It also includes Gary Hoachlander, friend and past evaluator of the TA3, and **Annette Parker**, President of TA3 member South Central College in Minnesota. All three had roles in the symposium, along with **Stuart Rosenfeld**, who commented on European apprenticeship systems. **Sue Smith** representing TA3 member Ivy Tech also participated. The presentations will be available on the [NAS symposium](#) web site.



Dr. Rhonda Tracy

Dr. Rhonda Tracy, formerly Vice President and recently interim President at TA3 member West Virginia University-Parkersburg, has been named **Chancellor** of another TA3 member, the **Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS)**, by President Jay Box. Rhonda's career brought her to Midway College in Kentucky, where she held positions as vice president, dean and professor at Midway College

from 2004 to 2007. She also has been associate dean of education at Winthrop University in South Carolina and assistant vice chancellor at the University of Arkansas, Monticello. Dr. Tracey has more than 30 publications on education, literacy and technology and has been lead investigator and/or grant writer for more than 20 grants. She served as chair of the Kentucky Association of Independent Colleges and Universities academic deans. She chaired the West Virginia Community and Technical College System-wide Developmental Education Assessment task force and currently serves as president of the West Virginia Community College Association. We look forward to continuing to work with Rhonda.

Gateway Community and Technical College in Kentucky was named one of the 25 Best Online Colleges of 2015 by BestColleges.com. Colleges were ranked based on admissions, enrollment, retention, and graduation data, and GCTC excelled in all areas. In April 2015, GCTC also signed a Memo of Understanding with the Northern Kentucky Chapter of the Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (KYFAME) to create a new a new AAS **Advanced Manufacturing Technician** program at Gateway. In addition, Gateway will host two hands-on **career exploration camps** this summer for high school girls and middle school students. “The camps are part of our ongoing efforts to expose students to exciting careers in advanced manufacturing,” according to Carissa Schutzman, Gateway Dean of Workforce Solutions. They demonstrate “that making stuff is cool and that the words ‘American made’ convey not only a sense of pride but an opportunity for a rewarding career in a clean, mentally challenging environment.”



President Ed Hughes signs the MOA with the Kenton County Library

Minister Farry signs Memorandum of Understanding with Basque Government

As a result of relationships built through the TA3, Employment and Learning Minister Dr. Stephen Farry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Basque Government to encourage future collaboration in vocational education. The MoU was signed at the ‘International Encounters on Vocational Education and Training’ conference, which was held in Donostia- San Sebastián, in the Basque region of Spain. Minister Farry also delivered a speech to the international audience.

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Minister Farry said: “Developing relationships such as this with the Basque Government allows us to learn from our shared experiences and provides a strong foundation on which we can build future cooperation. “The conference has provided the forum for the Northern Ireland and Basque Governments to sign the MoU which will lead to many benefits for Northern Ireland by increasing our international perspective, the development of international linkages which have the potential to attract European funding and provide the basis for long term collaboration on the skills agenda.

“I look forward to developing a long and fruitful collaboration between the professional and technical training systems between our two regions to develop a workforce capable of competing globally in the 21st Century, and for the mutual benefit of our citizens, our companies and both our economies.”



Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Basque Government to encourage future collaboration in vocational education. Pictured with Minister Farry at the signing is Christina Uriarte, the Basque Minister of Education, Linguistic Policy and Culture.

The Memorandum of Understanding will also provide an opportunity to develop a student exchange programme between both regions, and affords the opportunity to widen further areas of development in areas such as innovation, entrepreneurship and internationalisation in higher education.

The Minister's attendance at the conference represents the next step in the growing relationship between Northern Ireland and the Basque region. The Basque economy has much in common with Northern Ireland through its similar population size, long history of industrial strength and innovation and a shared desire to embrace the new knowledge based economy.

A delegation from Northern Ireland's further education sector, led by Colleges NI Chairman Glynn Roberts and Chief Executive Gerry Campbell, travelled with the Minister in order to build on established relationships, which have already led to faculty and student exchanges. They will also visit the Basque Country's TA3 member, the TKNIKA Centre for Innovation, and participate in an extended programme based around vocational education with delegations from the USA, Germany and Finland in attendance. Follow the Executive online:

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/>

<http://twitter.com/niexecutive>

Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) Letterfrack is planning to host a conference **Déanta - Irish design, from concept to market** as part of **Irish Design 2015**, a multi-body collaboration to promote design and the creative industries in Ireland. A cross discipline selection of designers will address the conference and share their experiences bringing products to market. While aimed mainly at young designers and design students, Déanta will be of interest to anyone striving to take designed goods to market. This conference will provide a forum for learning from the experiences of professional designers and for informing future design practice. Déanta also will provide a platform for dialogue and discussion around issues relating to product development and the greater Design Industry in Ireland. In addition, as part of Irish Design 2015, GMIT will launch in November - Galway Design Box, display boxes in prominent public places to display design products.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College has passed a \$66.5 million **referendum** for improvements to three campuses. The referendum request was driven by data that showed critical skilled workforce shortages in commercial construction, digital arts, energy, health and wellness, information technology, manufacturing and transportation. The increased space will increase capacity by an additional 1,000 full-time equivalent students. The effort involved a months-long community education campaign revolving around employer interviews, workforce projections, and data concerning capacity vs. enrollment growth. All public referendum communications included the fact that the request would increase taxes by only \$7.50 per year for a \$150,000 house.

A **delegation from Minnesota visited the Basque region** June 17-22, 2015 and included TA3 member, South Central College, represented by President Annette Parker and Senior Associate to the President, Marsha Danielson. Other members of the delegation included:

- Steven Rosenstone, Chancellor, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
- Karen White, President, 360 Center of Excellence for Manufacturing
- Christo Robberts, Senior Lecturer: Bachelor of Manufacturing Management, University of Minnesota
- Doug Laven, Mechatronics Instructor, South Central College

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Delegation members visited with representatives from TKNIKA and participated in a tour featuring:

- Projects on advanced manufacturing with professional 3D printers
- Virtual reality applied to advanced learning processes
- Space for high achievement learning
- New applications of carbon fibre through infusion processes
- Applied technology- innovation system for SMEs through VET centers
- New energy-efficiency systems for intelligent buildings
- Sustainable mobility based on electric and hybrid vehicles
- New applications of Wood for sustainable technology-development
- Transference of the entrepreneurship and companies creation system in VET centers through networking
- Practical application of drones to the civil construction sector
- Presentation of Vocational Education and Training International Basque Campus.

The delegation also met with Xabier Ortueta, President of the Association of Machine Tool Manufacturers and visited two Technological Centres - TECNALIA and VICOMTECH. Other visits to the IMH (Machine Tool Institute), La Salle Berrozpe. (Technical College) and Usurbil GLBHI (Technical College) rounded out the meaningful and engaging visit. Next steps will include an exchange of culinary faculty in 2015-16 Academic Year, and Basque government officials and faculty will visit Minnesota for Manufacturing Month! Additionally, MnSCU faculty will visit our TA3 partners in the Basque Country to learn about how faculty teach, share student learning outcomes, and possibly conduct a short teaching demonstration.

TEC (**Technical Education Copenhagen**) in Denmark is a partner in the new EU funded program, Erasmus+, “the **Sector Skill Alliance for Advanced Manufacturing in the Transport Sector.**” The program supports one-stop shops that provide state-of-the-art solutions to competencies and skills needs faced by the automotive, aerospace and rail industries. TEC’s project “SKILL MAN” is promoted by a network of leading organizations that includes Jaguar Land Rover, SAS, Scandinavian Airlines Systems, and FIAT in cooperation with research centers and accreditation and regulatory bodies. These players cooperate with educational providers to determine skill needs and jointly design educational programs in line with current and emerging technologies. The Observatory on Advanced Manufacturing for the Transport Sector focuses its research activities and yearly outlook on labor market intelligence and requirements for educational programs around three key domains or problem areas: energy performance of production processes and end products; advanced processes, robotics and use of advanced combined materials; and information technologies and the use of ICT and wireless technologies. Mobility of staff and students are a part of this 3-year project, which is coordinated by Centro Studi Cultura Sviluppo Associazione in Pistoia, Italy.

Publications and Events

Tom Bailey, Director of the Center for Community College Research at Teachers College, Shanna Smith Jagers, and Davis Jenkins have co-authored an important new Harvard University Press book, [Redesigning America's Community Colleges](#). Based on eight years of research, they tackle the problem of the low completion rates and argue that common solutions such as developmental education and support systems are insufficient and that the entire system has to be restructured to simplify choices and give students a more structured and guided path.

The [OECD Skills Outlook 2015: Youth, Skills and Employability](#) reports that more than 35 million 16-29 year-olds across OECD countries are neither employed nor in education or training. In fact, young people are twice as likely as prime-age workers to be unemployed. Too many young people are not acquiring the skills they need to make a smooth transition from education to the work place; and many who do manage to find work are not using the skills they acquired during their schooling. Young people are best integrated into the labor market when education systems and employers work together to help young people match their skills to prospective jobs. The book shows how improving the employability of youth requires a comprehensive approach that requires co-ordination between public policies and the private sector.

El Salvador Update

TA3 delivered two Pilot Workshops on 21st Century Pedagogy and Applied Research to 70 Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT) faculty at seven Universities in El Salvador. Faculty from Minneapolis Community Technical College (MCTC) and South Central College (SCC), Minnesota teamed up to deliver a pilot workshop in June at two universities in El Salvador. MCTC's Cheryl Norman, CTL Faculty Development Specialist and Rich Pollak, IT Dept. Chair and faculty worked with Peter Johnson, IT and Online Learning and CTL Specialist from South Central to design an introduction to "Excellence in Teaching Workshop: 21st Century Pedagogy and Applied Research." The team designed a blended learning curriculum that will integrate sector specific content as the faculty training continues to serve five sectors and 40 universities.

Thirty-five ICT faculty from seven designated universities attended the first Workshop at Universidad Francisco Gavidia and another 35 faculty attended the second Workshop at Universidad Don Bosco. **This was the first time faculty from the seven universities had worked together. The 2-Day Workshops provided an introduction to 21st Century teaching and learning in course modules ranging from active learning through flipped classroom models, online course design and delivery, E-portfolio design and development and industry specific problem-based applied research and Capstone projects.** A complete course will be delivered based on a Training of the Trainer (TOT) Modular Model for Excellence in Teaching.

The team completed a needs assessment and evaluation in April with ICT faculty at six universities, meeting with 21 administrators, interviewing 24 instructors and observing 20 different classroom settings. A post-workshop evaluation was incorporated into the evaluation and assessment in order to create a more complete analysis of HEI faculty at seven Universities that will inform the development of content for the full course offering of 13 modules this fall.

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Key findings show that while 95% of faculty self-identified as subject experts, only 4 % exhibited student-centered versus teacher-centered attitudes. The ICT faculty members were highly receptive to the workshop modules, which include four main topics:

- Learning and Teaching Styles
- Theories of Learning
- Curriculum Design
- Applied Learning

Universidad Francisco Gavidia



Group work at Universidad Francisco Gavidia



Rich Pollak, Juliana Ceballos, Directora de Arquitectura y Desarrollo, Avianca; and Mauricio Quevedo, CEO, Korinver, Mobile Services; Cheryl Norman and Manuel Manjivar, RTI



Lumina Credentials Framework Update

Dr. Nan Travers, Director of the Office of Collegewide Academic Review at SUNY Empire State and Katie Hall, CSW are hosting a webinar as a follow-up to the [presentation](#) at the Belfast Symposium. Dr. Travers participated on a panel with other international experts on qualifications frameworks and provided context for the Lumina-funded work taking place now in the U.S. (Detailed webinar instructions will be sent via email to TA3 Members).

The credentialing world is confusing, at times even chaotic. To enhance the utility of credentials and reduce costs borne by individuals and employers, we need a common language – a unified analytic framework that helps stakeholders compare the value and suitability of different types of credentials. This Connecting Credentials: A Beta Credentials Framework, developed on behalf of Lumina Foundation by experts from the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) and the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), aims to fill that need.

The Framework uses competencies – what the learner knows and is able to do – as common reference points to help understand and compare levels of knowledge, skills and abilities that underlie degrees, certificates, industry certifications, licenses, apprenticeships, badges and other credentials. Competencies are understood both in industry and academia and can be applied in multiple contexts, making them a powerful unifying way to examine credentials.

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The Framework is intended to connect the dots among diverse credentials by using common language to describe what recipients of each credential should know and be able to do. This would help clarify the meaning of credentials, make them easier to compare, and make it possible to translate the learning gained from one credential toward securing another.

Please visit the Connecting Credentials [website](#) to learn more. We encourage you to get involved in the national dialogue, by using the discussion board on this page of the website.

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