

Minutes of the PC4A Biweekly Meeting

Held virtually on September 28, 2023 at 3:00 PM

Members Present: Jamie Bretz, Celisa Counterman, Waleed Farag, Maureen Farley, Sherri Mack, Charles Marchione, Guy Patra, Erica Reighard, Christie Sever, Lydia Taylor, Susan Testani, Courtney Tilton.

Meeting Information

1. Motion to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2023 meeting was made by Erica Reighard and seconded by Celisa Counterman. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. Partners were provided with an overview of all Y1 Accomplishments. A copy is included at the end of this document.
3. Only 68% of the Y1 budget was spent. This is a serious concern. All partners are expected to make every effort to spend funds in accordance with their budget and Scope of Work. All partners except Bucks received their Y2 subaward within two weeks of the start of Y2, and should be able to begin spending funds immediately.
4. On a positive note, 92% of the overall budget for “Participant Support” was spent. Partners are encouraged to continue with activities directly in support of students.
5. The PI will be presenting PC4A Y1 activities to the funding agency in early November 2023. Partners will be updated on the status of this meeting if it is delayed due to a government shutdown.
6. Partners are asked to provide all Y1 Data by no later than November 15, 2023 using the previously provided “PC4A Project Data” excel file.
 - a. After discussions with the Applied Research Lab, a new template will be provided that reflects ARL team recommendations.
 - b. Partners should not wait to begin to collect data, as many experienced delays at the start of the project.
7. The 16th Annual IUP Cybersecurity Day will be held on October 31, 2023. The event will be attended by representatives from the funding agency, and all Western PA Partners are kindly asked to send at least one faculty and a few students to attend. If partners do not have travel funds in their budget, please reach out to the PI or PM to discuss options for travel through the LO budget.
 - a. We are exploring the possibility of streaming the event online, and more information will be shared with partners as they become available.
8. The BSides Flood City Cybersecurity Event is sponsored by PC4A and will be held on October 26, 2023. The event will now be held at PHCC, and all Western PA Partners are encouraged to send faculty and students.
 - a. For Eastern PA Partners – BSides will be holding an event in Philadelphia on December 8, 2023.
9. All Lines Technology is hosting a webinar on Microsoft Copilot which will be held on October 25, 2023. Partners are encouraged to share the information with students and faculty.
10. Partners provided the following updates:
 - a. **WCCC:** Faculty and students will be attending both IUP CS Day and BSides. A new Pen Testing course is being developed, and trips for students are being planned. A possible bootcamp may be held over winter break for CompTIA A+.
 - b. **PHCC:** Curriculum changes are currently underway and are being submitted through the approval process. PHCC will be hosting the BSides event, and travel is being planned for students and faculty to attend the IUP CS Day. A Security+ workshop is being held on September

29, 2023, and a Network+ workshop is scheduled for November 10, 2023. A student club is currently being formed and students will hopefully participate in a few cyber games.

- c. **MCCC:** The Merck Day at Montco was held on September 27, 2023 with Merck employees, the MCCC Project Manager attended and shared information on the project. The relationship with Merck is expanding, and representatives will be returning to campus in November and hosting the “Merck Challenge” for engineering, computer science, and biotechnology students that will focus on robotics. A seminar or class in Wireshark is currently in development, and a possible smaller version of Cybersecurity Day may be held in Spring. All partners are also invited to attend the Technology and Learning conference held on September 29, 2023. Possible A+ and CCNA workshops are planned for late 2023 or early 2024.
- d. **NCC:** The Math Department is making changes to help bring students into Computer Science and Engineering, and curriculum changes should be finished by the end of October. 18 people applied for the Outreach Coordinator position and is expected that the position will be filled soon. Two students will start internships at Tobyhanna Army Depot that will run through December 2023.
- e. **BC3:** Plans to continue with the marketing campaign are underway. Co-PI Sherri Mack asked partners how they are accomplishing adding courses to an already full curriculum:
 - i. WCCC is replacing old courses with the new and more advanced courses, and MCCC will collaborate with BC3 on how they’re implementing new courses.Network+ and Security+ bootcamps are planned for December, and A+ and Linux+ may be offered as well.
- f. **BUCKS:** Representatives will be attending various open houses through the Fall semester, and a veteran focused open house will be held on November 6, 2023. Additional bootcamps will be offered soon.

11. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. EST.

12. With no further business, the meeting concluded at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Taylor and Dr. Waleed Farag

YEAR 1 ACHIEVEMENTS

(September 2022 - August 2023)



54
Scholarships
Awarded

461

Virtual Lab/Textbook
Vouchers Distributed

20

Paid Internships
Offered



9 Certification Prep
Workshops Held



56 Certification Exam
Vouchers Awarded

15 Certifications Earned by Students

5 Faculty Development
Workshops Offered



25 STEM Faculty Trained in
Cybersecurity Topics

5 Certifications/recertifications
Earned by Faculty

50+ Collaborations with Government, Academic,
and Private Institutions.

23 Biweekly Meetings Held with CC
Partners.



42

Notable Events
Attended or Held



80+ Posts on Social
Media

2 Summer Camps
Offered

9 STEM Programs
Updated



700 Hours of Tutoring
Offered