

# Minutes of the PC4A Biweekly Meeting

## Held Virtually on February 26, 2025 at 3:00 PM

**Members Present:** James Bretz, Celisa Counterman, Bryson Edwards, Waleed Farag, Kelli Gardner, Josh Hamilton, Becky Hays, Melissa Langer, Sherri Mack, Tim McCroskey, Donna Reed, Erica Reighard, Christie Sever, Robert Stefko, Lydia Taylor, Courtney Tilton, Casey Veychek, Barb Zaborowski

### Meeting Information

1. Motion to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2025 meeting was made by Erica Reighard and seconded by Barb Zaborowski. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. The funding agency recently requested that we update our work plan to align with recent executive orders. The work plan was updated and now contains language so that services and benefits will be provided based on merit only. It is also unknown if PC4A will be awarded an additional three years of funding, and details will be shared with partners as soon as possible. A no-cost-extension is currently being considered to allow partners to continue working toward objectives for an additional year.
3. MCCC is offering a CompTIA A+ certification prep bootcamp and is allowing students from other partner schools to attend virtually. If students are interested, they should register online and faculty can contact Donna Reed with questions.
  - a. The focus of the workshop is to prepare for the exam, not to learn the exam material.
4. POGIL workshops will be offered sometime in March and/or April, and PC4A staff are currently working to establish dates. Details will be shared with partners as soon as possible, including marketing materials and the registration link.
5. NR Labs has selected a student from MCCC for a paid internship. Details will be discussed with MCCC to establish an hourly rate/budget for the internship. All other internship spots are currently full.
6. Mid-year review meetings will be held with all partners during the week of March 24-28, 2025. Partners will be contacted soon to schedule these meetings.
7. Details for the upcoming Capture the Flag event were shared:
  - a. 10 challenges range from very easy to medium difficulty.
  - b. Expected time for completion is 17 hours.
  - c. A summary of the challenges will be shared with partners for feedback as challenges can be changed any time prior to the start of the event. Partners are asked to keep challenge information confidential to ensure fairness to all participants.
8. Partners were asked to continue distributing the student survey. Responses are due by March 31, 2025.
9. Partners provided the following updates:
  - a. **PHCC:** A cert-prep bootcamp is being planned and a flyer will be created to promote the event. Intern positions are now open, and candidates are being evaluated. The student survey and POGIL workshop details have been shared and will continue to be promoted.
  - b. **MCCC:** Four students have passed both exams for CompTIA A+. Science focused high school students will be visiting campus and will participate in hands-on labs. Collaboration with the Montgomery County library system has begun. A cert-prep bootcamp will be offered in May for all PC4A partner students. Two positions are open in the computer science department. The “Discover your future” event will be hosted on campus for about 130 middle school girls and PC4A materials will be distributed.
  - c. **BUCKS:** Cert-prep bootcamps for A+ and Security+ will be held March 17-19. Faculty will be presenting at the “Future Ready Conference” in May.

- d. **BC3:** Little Moon Marketing filmed testimonial videos on campus which went well. Scholarship funds have been distributed to students. Preparations continue for the cybersecurity conference which will be held on April 10. A BC3 student has been chosen to intern at CTC.
  - e. **WCCC:** A coding camp will be held for middle school students on March 1 which will focus on snap circuits. The CS intern has been working on setting up equipment for the Pearson Vue testing center. The BotsIQ combat robotics competition will be held at WCCC on March 12-13 and volunteers are needed. Staff will be attending upcoming advisory committee meetings for local career and technical centers.
  - f. **NCC:** Three interns will begin interning in early March. Interviews are being conducted to fill three open positions in computer science. Local career and technical centers will be visiting campus on April 24. The 3CS Conference will be held on April 25-26.
10. The next meeting will be held virtually on February 26, 2025 at 3:00PM.
11. With no further business, the meeting concluded at 3:50 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Taylor and Dr. Waleed Farag.