

Minutes of the PC4A Biweekly Meeting

Held Virtually on February 12, 2025 at 3:00 PM

Members Present: James Bretz, Celisa Counterman, Bryson Edwards, Kelli Gardner, Josh Hamilton, Donna Reed, Erica Reighard, Christie Sever, Lydia Taylor, Courtney Tilton, Casey Veychek, Barb Zaborowski

Meeting Information

1. Motion to approve the minutes from the January 29, 2025 meeting was made by Erica Reighard and seconded by Barb Zaborowski and Christie Sever. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. A tentative list of faculty in targeted programs was sent to all partners and updates were requested. An introductory email will be sent to all faculty members soon and partners are asked to have faculty add pc4a-stem@iup.edu to their address book.
3. The POGIL Interest Survey results showed that the majority of interested faculty had not attended a POGIL workshop previously. Based on this feedback, the introductory workshop will be offered again this year. PHCC and MCCC have offered to host, and details will be shared with partners as soon as possible.
4. CTC Internships will begin with three students on Monday, February 17, 2025. A press release will be shared congratulating students soon. Unfortunately, no candidates have been chosen by NR Labs, and a lunch and learn event is being planned to help students prepare for interviews and employment.
5. Testimonial videos will be filmed at BC3 on February 26, 2025. Other West PA partners are asked to share a list of students/faculty willing to participate by the end of the day on Monday, February 17, 2025.
 - a. PHCC's Northstar Dual Enrollment students will be featured in the testimonial videos, and the PM will coordinate with their guidance counselor to get filming scheduled.
 - b. Eastern PA partners are asked to reach out to students for written testimonials as it is unlikely that videos will be able to be filmed at their schools due to budget/time constraints.
6. The CTF environment has been created, and the PM is working with HackTheBox to get access for partners to test challenges. Below are additional details about the event:
 - a. A dedicated website and flyer will be shared with partners soon, along with instructions on how students can create an account, join a team, and register for the event.
 - b. The PI has approved a \$4,200 prize pool which includes \$150, \$100, and \$50 gift cards for members of first, second, and third place teams respectively, along with a certification exam voucher up to \$180.
7. The PC4A Student Survey was distributed to all partners, and all are asked to share the survey with their students. Current responses were shared with partners.
8. Partners provided the following updates:
 - a. **PHCC:** Three internship positions are currently being filled. Work will begin soon to develop marketing materials for the upcoming certification-prep bootcamps. Representative Frank Burns visited PHCC campus and met with administrators to determine how he can assist PHCC. Information on PC4A was shared, and Mr. Burns expressed an interest in assisting with helping PC4A get the three-year grant extension.
 - b. **BUCKS:** Cert-prep bootcamps are tentatively scheduled for Spring Break, and a faculty member will be presenting at the upcoming Future Ready conference. Bucks may be able to open the cert-prep workshops to other partner institutions, more information will be shared when possible.

- c. **WCCC:** The Cybersecurity Club co-sponsored a VCR party last week that was well received. Planning continues for the March coding camp for middle school students. The WCCC intern has been working on setting up equipment for the Pearson Vue Testing Center. WCCC will also be hosting the BotsIQ competition in March.
 - d. **MCCC:** Two students completed the A+ bootcamp and have successfully passed both exams. Three more students will be taking the exam soon. A meeting with high school students Chief Science Officers is planned, and the Cisco Support Manager has officially begun employment.
 - e. **NCC:** Interviews are scheduled for a new computer science faculty member. Tobyhanna Army Depot is having an open house March 18-20 and faculty will be attending. An NCC open house will be held in April. \$45,000 in scholarships was recently awarded to students.
 - f. **BC3:** Grace Ji has joined BC3 as a Computer Science faculty. Scholarship applications have opened and students are reminded to apply. Work continues on the Cybersecurity Conference which will be held in April. Study materials are being offered to students to encourage certification obtainment, particularly CompTIA A+.
9. The next meeting will be held virtually on February 26, 2025 at 3:00PM.
10. With no further business, the meeting concluded at 3:50 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Taylor and Dr. Waleed Farag.