

**NVCC Industry Sector Summits Report**

**Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs**

**BACKGROUND** Since 2014, in support of NVCC’s strategic planning, the Environmental Scanning Committee of the Institutional Planning Council (IPC) has worked with Academic Affairs to ask regional employers, “How can we, as a community college, help you build or improve your workforce?” To respond to the question, the IPC organized a series of Industry Sector Summits to connect with Connecticut employers in seven industry sectors as defined by the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Board of Regents. All seven sectors were approved for Naugatuck Valley Community College in 2013. These sectors are: Manufacturing, Information Technology, Bioscience, Energy, Financial Services, Allied Health, and Hospitality. (See the Industry Sectors Map.)

**OBJECTIVES** The Industry Sector Summit initiative has two objectives. First, through partnering with industry, NVCC gains greater relevancy for curriculum in degree programs which ultimately benefit our students by preparing them for career and job opportunities. Second, our faculty’s engagement with business and industry partners and sharing of academic and educational perspectives can enhance an organization’s quality, productivity, and job creation--all to benefit workforce efforts in the region.

**SCHEDULE** Beginning with an “On the Road” summit, the college planned one summit each semester, each with a particular industry sector focus. To date, this series, designed to support the development of relevant curricula and expansion into new education and training programs in high-demand areas, has welcomed more than 150 business and industry professionals to engage with faculty and staff to build workforce opportunities.

**KEY QUESTIONS** Each summit asked participants to address questions to guide the College’s proposal for a new associate degree program, or to amend the curriculum of a current program. Our faculty relied on these conversations with industry and business experts for perspectives and suggestions on what can be done to help students succeed in a career. Participants were asked:

* From your perspective, what projections would you cite about careers in this field, and what are the emerging opportunities for growth and advancement in these fields?
* What do students need to know to have a successful career in the industry?
* What other courses/degrees are required for advancement?
* What do you feel are the most important traits in a prospective employee (e.g. social skills, willingness to learn, team player, effective communicator, etc.)?
* What would you advise a student who has an interest in the field?
* What do you think are the opportunities for advancement? In these fields? At your company? At the Associates degree level?  At the Bachelor’s degree level?

**OUTCOMES** An outcome of the Summits can be seen in the recent development of our Cybersecurity degree program. This new program, in an emerging technical field that can offer employment and transfer opportunities, was developed in collaboration with faculty and professionals in the criminal justice (CJ) and computer information systems (CIS) fields. NVCC faculty developed a new degree program proposal and presented it to Summit participants with expertise in the CIS and CJ fields. Their advice helped faculty align the degree program with industry standards and needs. Since its Fall 2016 program launch, 25 new students have been accepted, and nearly 100 students are enrolled in courses.

**BENEFITS** Summits have helped NVCC expand industry engagement overall, with more and more industry representatives engaging with faculty every year. The attached chart summarizes business and industry additions to our Curriculum Advisory Councils, and highlights specific curriculum results realized through Summit engagements. NVCC’s Industry Sector Summits have helped to serve the needs of employers in our service area while preparing students for a career or further education. Examples can be seen in internship opportunities (as noted on the attached chart) as well as preparation for future jobs with participating organizations.

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary of Industry Sector Summit Outcomes** |
| **Date** | **Sector** | **Industry** | **Curriculum Advisory Council** | **Curriculum Results** |
| June2014 | Manufacturing  | Advanced [Manufacturing](http://www.nv.edu/Subjects/Engineering-Technology-and-Manufacturing#3783391-degree-programs) | • Local manufacturers | -Changes in **Manufacturing** curriculum to create programs to meet the needs of local industry employers.  |
| March2015 | Information Technology  | [Cybersecurity](http://www.nv.edu/Credit/Cybersecurity) | • COCC• Webster Bank | -Development of a new **Cyber Security** associate degree program proposal for Fall 2016. -Program proposal revised upon Summit feedback. -Internship opportunities emerged from Summit participants, and advisory board formed. -Program approval gained through NVCC CEAC and CSCU BOR.-New program offered to students Fall 2016. Eleven new students enrolled.  |
| August2015 | Allied Health  | [Surgical Technology](http://www.nv.edu/Academics/Academic-Divisions/Allied-Health-Nursing-and-Physical-Education) | • Saint Mary's Hospital• Waterbury Hospital• Griffin Hospital | -Development of a new **Surgical Technology** associate degree program proposal. -Program proposal revised upon Summit feedback. -Advisory board formed to include Summit participants. -Program approval gained through NVCC CEAC and CSCU BOR held in abeyance until credits can be reduced to normalization level.-Target: Academic Year 2017-18  |
| March2016 | [Bioscience](http://www.nv.edu/Subjects/Biological-Sciences#3616329-degree-programs) | Bioscience | • Jackson Labs• CURE• CCSU• Bristol-Meyers Squibb | -Development of a new **Bioscience Technology** associate degree program proposal. -Program proposal revised upon Summit feedback. -Advisory board formed to include Summit participants. -Program approval gained through NVCC CEAC. -Proposal held in abeyance due to high cost of equipment  |
| November 2016 | [Financial Services](http://www.nv.edu/Credit/Business#4096451-bbusiness-financebbr-degree-requirements-and-outcomes-what-you-will-learn) | Financial Services | • NewOak Financial | -Changes made to **Business Finance** curriculum to be more industry relevant and to meet the needs of local industry employers. -Advisory board formed to include Summit participants and internship opportunities identified.  |
| April2017 | Hospitality  | Hospitality and Horticulture | • DT Media• Natureworks• Nonnewaug  High School | -Development of a new **Sustainable Food Systems** associate degree program proposal. -Program proposal revised upon Summit feedback. -Advisory board formed to include Summit participants-Approval through NVCC CEAC and CSCU BOR will begin Academic Year 2017-18. |
| October2017 - TBD | Energy | EnergyNatural GasElectric |   | -New program opportunities currently being considered.  |

