



IT@SINCLAIR/NSF PARTNERSHIP ENDS PACESETTING FIRST YEAR!

The First NSF National Visiting Committee Meeting Held

The first National Visiting Committee meeting was held January 23, 2004 at Sinclair Community College. The National Visiting Committee (NVC) consists of an expert board of advisors from around the country who provide insight and advice to the grant team and a report to NSF. The NVC consists of: Ms. Ruth Schneider, Wright-Patterson AFB (NVC chair); Dr. Tom Atkinson, Forum Corporation; Dr. Richard Arndt, Ohio Board of Regents; Mike Burns, MeadWestvaco; David Finney, LexisNexis; Ms. Ann Gallaher, Greater Dayton IT Alliance; Carol Howerton, Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College; Dr. Sara Mazak, Ohio Department of Education; and Dr. James Rowley, University of Dayton.

The NVC reviewed the grant, plans, roles, responsibilities, and results to date. The NVC felt that the effort is "well organized" and "ground breaking."

Table of Contents

NSF Visiting Committee Meeting	1
Grant Evaluation Performed	1
Student Readiness Best Practice	1
Precision Learning Breakthrough	1
Part-Time Faculty Institute	1
Best Practices	2
Notable Events	2
Do You Know About	2
Upcoming Attractions	2
Newsletter Archives	Link
IT@Sinclair	Link

Grant Evaluation Performed

Dr. Pamela Tate, president of CAEL and grant external evaluator visited Sinclair March 12, 2003 to evaluate the grant. She concluded that the grant is both ambitious and exciting. The daylong event attended by the entire grant team was packed with presentations, tours, and discussion.

Student Readiness Confirms Best Practice

Focusing on student readiness and success resulting from initial research, an assessment tool and best practice has been developed and is in the process of being piloted. Charlotte Wharton, principle investigator for the grant and leader of the Student Readiness Assessment Initiative is pleased with the early results. "Students will have the ability to assess themselves as early as high school regarding their readiness to enter and then be successful in our college's computer information program," says Ms. Wharton. Contact [Charlotte Wharton](#) for more information.

Precision Learning Breakthrough

An architecture has been developed focusing on a repeatable process and common framework promoting acquisition, reuse, building and the consistent delivery of predictable high quality IT course content through object oriented configurable technology. The draft architecture is based upon extensive industry research. Stay tuned for further groundbreaking announcements. Contact [Nancy Thibeault](#), the author of document and the leader of this initiative for further information.

Part-Time Faculty Institute Has Major Launch

Three hundred and fifty Ohio educators attended the third annual Ohio information technology conference held April 21, 2004 at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus, Ohio. The Ohio Department of Education and IT@Sinclair (supported in part by the National Science Foundation) partnered to organize a day long conference for Ohio's educators entitled: "Improving Ohio's IT Education: itWORKS.OHIO 2004."

Keynote speakers included Terry Rapach, vice president, IT Services Enterprise Applications, NCR Corporation and Mr. John F. Sargent, senior policy analyst, Office of Technology Policy, Technology Administration, Department of Commerce.



Photo: 2004 itWorks.Ohio Conference

IT@Sinclair was well represented with workshops and presentations on: "Where Did the IT Students Go? Issues in Retention in IT Programs," Charlotte Wharton, Patty Santoianni, and Nancy Thibeault; "Network Security," Bob Sherman; "Dynamic Web Content Delivery," Cheryl Palafox-Stewart and Russ Little; "Flash Workshop," Jeff Barton; and "Visual Basic.NET Workshop," Mohamed Ali. Contact [Patty Santoianni](#), [Charlotte Wharton](#), or [Sara Mazak](#) for more information on the event.



Best Practices, Seminars and Lessons Learned

How do you submit your annual report via Fast Lane? Mary Robinson, project manager for the [IT@Sinclair](#) grant, experienced in Fast Lane has just finished developing a best practice on how to use the NSF Fast Lane technology! This is must reading. Contact [Mary Robinson](#) for more information on the *Fast Lane Best Practice*.

How do you share your grant's best practices, lessons learned, or just simply keep your organization up to date with all of the grant related activities? Sinclair has created a formal framework and model to do just that – *the Sinclair Grants Network (SiGN)*. It is based upon principles of knowledge management. If you want to learn more, contact [Dave Siefert](#).

Do you know how to improve the probability of your grant's success? As a result of being invited by NSF to offer a workshop on "*Successful Grant Management*" at the 2003 NSF ATE Conference, Dave Siefert concluded the need is great for such a methodology. The workshop presents grant management methodology and tools. Contact [Dave Siefert](#) for more information.

And, don't forget the *Student Readiness Best Practice* currently in its final stages mentioned earlier. Contact [Charlotte Wharton](#).

Book mark [IT@Sinclair](#) for all best practices.

Notable Events

250 Attend "Test-Out" Event

Bob Sheehan and Patty Santoianni planned and conducted an enormously successful event preparing people for successfully completing industry IT related certifications. Eleventh and twelfth grade students throughout Ohio attended a day long April, 2004 event at Sinclair Community College.



Test-Out 2004: Sinclair Community College

IT@Sinclair, the Miami Valley Tech Prep Consortium and the Ohio Department of Education sponsored this - the third year event. Contact [Bob Sheehan](#) for further information.

IT@Sinclair presents at SOCHE Conference

"Where Did the IT Students GO?" Patty Santoianni, Charlotte Wharton, and Nancy Thibeault presented "Issues in Student Retention and Success in IT Programs" during the April 30, 2004 conference in Dayton, Ohio. Over 300 attended the conference.

Greater Dayton IT Alliance Strategic Plan

[Ann Gallaher](#) is leading the development of the GDITA's next generation strategic plan. A small team of GDITA board members (which includes [Dave Siefert](#)) has been researching and constructing the plan that is addressing the IT needs and directions for over 270 companies and institutions. The strategic plan is

nearing its final stages – being readied for GDITA Board review and approval.

Do You Know About...?

[The Greater Dayton IT Alliance](#) is an industry trade association dedicated to the retention, growth, and economic development of the information technology industry in the Miami Valley. [Ann Gallaher](#) is the GDITA Chief Operating Officer. Additionally Ms. Gallaher is a member of IT@Sinclair's NSF National Visiting Committee. Click on "[Events](#)" for upcoming events. Contact [Dave Siefert](#), GDITA Events Chair, for suggestions or comments.

[The Learning Center at Miami Valley Research Park](#) is located at Miami Valley Research Park. It is the recognized leader in professional and personal development in the Dayton area. The Learning Center offers comprehensive business solutions that attract over 3,000 individuals, companies, and organizations every year. Cost-effective solutions are results based and customized to meet your business needs. The Learning Center offers a wide range of expertise in everything from computer training to management development. [Karen Stiles](#) manages the "center."



The Learning Center

Upcoming Attractions

8/1-8/4/2004 - [Synergy 2004](#), Nashville, TN

11/7-11/10/2004 - League for Innovation in Community College Conference on Information Technology, Tampa, FL.