PRESIDENTS PRESS
Community College Presidents Initiative

December 2023
Volume 6

CCPI ATE STEM
Achieving Excellence in Workforce Education

AFFINITY MEETING HELPS CCPI-STEM BUILD FOR NEXT PHASE OF PROJECT

CCPI-STEM convened an Affinity Meeting on October 25 in conjunction with the Advanced Technological Education Principal Investigators' Conference in Washington, D.C.

Thirty-six people, mostly senior administrators affiliated with CCPI-STEM, attended the meeting at the Omni Shoreham Hotel along with six CCPI-STEM Fellows.

The goal of the meeting was to unveil the CCPI-STEM curriculum modules—particularly the first module that provides an overview of the ATE program—and introduce all the CCPI-STEM team members present to each other. Dr. Charlene Mickens Dukes, CCPI-STEM co-principal investigator, led the initial discussion where participants explained their interest in CCPI-STEM and their expectations for the conference.

The modules were presented by Shane Kirby, the CCPI-STEM associate curriculum developer who is director of Advancement Partnerships at Columbus State Community College, and Elizabeth Hawthorne, principal investigator of Fortifying Cybersecurity and Computing Education through ATE Grants (FORCCE-ATE) and co-principal investigator of CCPI-STEM.

Their presentation was followed by a robust panel discussion with Dr Ed Massey and Dr. Jennifer Wimbish, both retired community colleges presidents, and Koushik Venkataraman and Flave Stump, both businessmen, to discuss the challenges of building a supportive grantsmanship culture at community colleges.

All the panelists agreed that college-industry collaborations provide important drivers for innovation and ATE grants. Massey is CCPI-STEM Southeast Regional Network lead and Wimbish is CCPI-STEM Southwest Regional Network lead. Venkataraman is the director of Workforce Development at Texas Instruments. Stump is the environment, health, and safety manager and training coordinator at Technique Inc. and is a manufacturing instructor at Northwest High School in Michigan.

The meeting helped participants

- improve their understanding of the NSF ATE proposal development process;
- gain appreciation for imperative for community colleges to collaborate with other colleges and businesses; and
- build the CCPI-STEM community through networking, shared interests, and the goal of advancing STEM workforce education and the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program.

CCPI Affinity Group meeting at the NSF ATE PI conference. Pictured from left to right: President Emerita Wimbish, President Emeritus Massey & Mr. Stump.