

### THOUGHT LEADERS' DIALOGUE III

#### 3 Presidents Share Insights about Industry Partnerships

Three successful community college and industry workforce collaborations were the focus of CCPI-STEM's Third Thought Leaders' Dialogue.

Dr. Anne Kress, president of Northern Virginia Community College, explained how Google has been "an incredible partner" on various college programs that prepare students for technical roles building data centers and operating them. Dr. Annette Parker, president of South-Central College, reported on the collaboration with Daikin Applied Americas to expand mechatronics instruction to rural high school students and help adults switching to manufacturing careers. Dr. David Harrison, president of Columbus State Community College, shared how Rocky Parker, senior external affairs officer at Nationwide, helped assemble a "kitchen cabinet" of human resource officers from various industries to advise college workforce development initiatives and partner on grants.

In his opening remarks Dr. Rufus Glasper, president and chief executive officer of the League for Innovation in the Community College, pointed out that science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines serve as entry points for many first-generation community college students. He encouraged community college leaders to build "a pipeline for those who are unaware of what STEM really means, how they can enter the profession, how they can grow and go in many directions."

Watch CCPI-STEM's Third Thought Leaders' Dialogue [here](#). Read the report [here](#).

### FIVE SELECTED AS 2024-25 CCPI-STEM FELLOWS

The CCPI-STEM Initiative Leadership Team is pleased to introduce the 2024-25 Fellows. They are Amanda Colosimo, professor of geology at [Monroe Community College](#); Amanda Hanley, assistant professor of mathematics at [Cuyahoga Community College](#); Danny Darden, associate professor of computer and information technology at [Kilgore College](#); Elizabeth Gonzalez, a biology faculty member and the lead microbiology instructor at [South Texas College](#); Qurat-ul-Ann Mirza, a physics instructor and physics program chair at [Rowan College at Burlington County](#).

CCPI-STEM Fellows' program provides \$5,000 stipends for up to two years—with funding from the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education program—to selected community college educators who aspire to leadership roles and are enrolled in graduate programs that focus on community colleges' development of the STEM technical workforce.

[Read the full article here.](#)

### WEBINAR EXPLAINS HOW IRSC ADDED ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS WITH ATE GRANTS & CULTURE CHANGE

How Indian River State College (IRSC) leveraged \$24 million in Advanced Technological Education grants from the National Science Foundation to develop 14 STEM technical workforce programs and attract \$115 million in other external support was the subject of the CCPI-STEM Southeast Regional Hub meeting in January.

Dr. Ed Massey, IRSC president emeritus and CCPI-STEM Southeast Regional Chair, talked about the culture change that accompanied his challenge to the IRSC STEM faculty in 2000 to rethink the curriculum. "Very few of our technical programs had very much enrollment because we were not training what the industry wanted. So we had to upgrade those things or we had to build new programs," he said.

Dr. Tina Hart, who retired from IRSC in 2021 as vice president of enrollment and student services, encouraged administrators in the webinar audience to begin pursuing grants by leveraging their available resources. She asked: "What do you already have in place that can be re-imagined or expanded? How can you inspire the people that are on your campus about what opportunities are available? How can you recognize them?"

[Read the full article here.](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 21, 2025 / 1:00 pm ET**

**Webcast: Model Community College and Industry Partnerships**

**RSVP HERE:** <https://bit.ly/4iRD42K>

**April 11, 2025 / 1:00 pm ET**

**Webcast: Discussion with CCPI-Fellows and their Mentors**

**RSVP HERE:** <https://bit.ly/4hT494o>

**April 25, 2025 / 1:00 pm ET**

**Webcast: AI in STEM Education**

**RSVP TBD**

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