The Future of AMTEC

AMTEC’s future has never looked brighter. Even though the National Science Foundation grant ended January 31, 2018, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) made a commitment to continue and advance AMTEC to the next level. Referred to as AMTEC – Next Generation, a new leadership team is in place to work with educational and industry partners. The AMTEC Next Generation Leadership Team hit the ground running in February and is in the process of meeting as many AMTEC partners as possible. Additionally, the team plans to pursue the National Visiting Committee’s suggestions for “AMTEC Sustainability Plans Beyond 2017” which include:

- Expanding the focus to include Advanced Manufacturing/Mechatronics to reach other high tech industries.
- Positioning AMTEC as a nationally industry-recognized leader of mechatronics credentials and certification.
- Pursuing additional NSF funding opportunities.
- Developing an AMTEC - Next Generation Strategic Plan, Business Plan, and Financial Plan.
- Leveraging and promoting key partnerships.

Bios and contact information for the AMTEC Next Generation Leadership Team can be found on the next pages.
Meet Cindy Fiorella – AMTEC VP

Cindy Fiorella provides leadership and strategic oversight for the AMTEC Next Generation Leadership Team. As Vice President of Workforce and Economic Development for Owensboro Community and Technical College, she develops and supervises workforce and economic development-related programs including customized business and industry training, workforce assessment services, continuing/community education programs, adult education services and career pathways initiatives for under-skilled adults and dislocated workers. Cindy manages a $2 to $3 million budget and more than 40 employees. Cindy served on the KCTCS Board of Regents for six years and was instrumental in shaping the newly-formed educational system. She has earned a notable reputation for innovation and leadership in state and national workforce development initiatives.

Cindy’s efforts have been featured in numerous publications and she has been invited to serve as a keynote speaker and panelist in national forums including the: Boston Foundation; National Council of State Legislators Labor and Economic Development Committee on State Career Pathways Programs; Connecticut Community College’s Workforce Professional Development Day; Women Work/NAPE Annual Conference; Jobs for the Future’s Rx for a New Health Care Workforce Summit; and the Michigan Student Success Summit. She has also served as a member of the Jobs for the Future National Health Care Advisory Group. Locally, Cindy is active in the Greater Owensboro community and has served on several boards and volunteered with numerous organizations. She has a master’s in organizational communication and a bachelor’s in elementary education from Western Kentucky University. Cindy and her husband, Michael, have two daughters Lacey and Carrie and two wonderful grandchildren, Liam and Tilly.

Calling All Subject Matter Experts

The results from the 2016 Delphi are complete and a new version of the AMTEC General Maintenance - Mechatronics Certification Test is ready for pilot testing. We are in the process of recruiting 200 pilot testers (industry partners, college partners, industry employees and college students) to review the new revised test and share feedback with Nocti. If you are interested in participating and/or can help recruit 10 to 20 pilot testers, this will help us validate the new test version and get it in rotation as quickly as possible. Additionally, the AMTEC curriculum is in need of updating to reflect the changes that resulted from the Delphi. If you are interested in assisting with the curriculum revisions, please contact Jason Simon at AMTEC@kctcs.edu or 270-686-4616.
Meet Jason Simon

AMTEC Innovation Manager

Jason Simon serves as the AMTEC Innovation Manager. He is responsible for leading the product development and expansion efforts based on input from industry and college partners. For nearly 20 years, Jason has worked in educational television programming, video production, computer-based learning development, and instructional design. In 2001, Jason began his career at OCTC after serving as Production Manager, 1st Marine Division United States Marine Corps. Some of Jason’s notable career highlights at OCTC include designing and implementing an innovative computer-based safety training which has certified over 1,600 manufacturing contractors to date. He also created an online learning platform and designed a technical help desk for a multi-state employer. Additionally, Jason designed and managed the professional development and regulatory training for a service organization with over 2,000 end users. Jason has extensive instructional design expertise in videography, video editing, software integration, as well as multi-media and graphical design. He also has experience in managing learning platforms and instructional management systems. Jason earned a bachelor’s degree from Western Kentucky University in systems management. Jason and his wife, Anastacia, manage a family farm along with their six children, Jacob, Lillian, Clare, Mary, Edith, and Jonathan.

Meet Sheri Plain

AMTEC Director

Sheri Plain serves as the AMTEC Director and manages the daily activities. She is responsible for implementing the AMTEC Next Gen strategic plan, business plan, and marketing plan. In addition to AMTEC, Sheri is the PI for the college’s new National Science Foundation ATE Project (DUE 1800489) “Advancing Female Incumbent Workers in the Manufacturing Industry.” Prior to that, she served as regional project manager for the NSF “Jobs to Manufacturing Careers” project (DUE 1304249), a partnership initiative with Jobs for the Future, WGBH Educational Foundation, and OCTC. In addition, Sheri served as Co-PI for the National Science Foundation ATE project (DUE 0702960) “Discover Mechatronics - Next Generation Manufacturing.” She has a master’s in communication from Western Kentucky University and a bachelor’s in journalism, radio, and television from Murray State University. She and her husband, Scott, have a chocolate lab named Moose.

“We are excited to become part of AMTEC and work with such incredible partners.”

Sheri Plain
Meet Mike Rodgers

AMTEC Advisor

Mike Rodgers is the AMTEC Advisor. He has served as a faculty member, dean, and a vice president at OCTC. Currently, Mike is the VP of Institutional Advancement and until recently, also served as the interim Chief Academic Affairs Officer. Mike came to OCTC in 2011 and served as the Associate Dean of the Skilled Trades and Personal Services. Under his leadership, OCTC was named the 2014 Technical School of the Year by Tomorrow’s Tech magazine and WIX Filters. Mike was also instrumental in developing and launching the Preparing Vehicle Technicians for Advanced Transportation Fuels Project, where OCTC students converted a 1965 Cobra engine to run on E85. The program was the first college program in the state and the nation to offer technician training in all of the advanced transportation and alternative fuel vehicle technologies. Mike actually began his career as a faculty at Piedmont Technical College in South Carolina and was later named as the program coordinator for Automotive Technology. He earned a bachelor’s degree in 1996 from University of South Carolina-Aiken, a master’s degree from Western Kentucky University and is currently scheduled to begin work on his doctoral degree at WKU. Mike has two children, Alicyn and Garett.

Goals & Priorities

AMTEC Priorities

Based on partner input to date, the AMTEC Next Generation Leadership Team is focusing on the following key priorities during the next few months:

Partner Input
- Talk with as many partners as possible to seek opinions and advice for advancing AMTEC.

General Maintenance-Mechatronics Certification
- Arrange for 200 pilot testers (industry partners, instructors, and college students) to review and validate the updated certification based on the Delphi results.

AMTEC Curriculum
- Work with subject matter experts to complete the Delphi approved edits to the curriculum.

Purdue Simulations
- Integrate the Purdue online simulations into the AMTEC system.

We encourage you to reach out and give us a call, drop us a note, or shoot us a message with any feedback or thoughts you have regarding AMTEC. We would love to hear from you, introduce ourselves, and have a conversation on the phone to get to know each and every one of you. As we move forward through the test validation and module update process, we are dependent on your expertise and experience with AMTEC to get us to the next stage!

Please share your AMTEC student success stories. Send us a photo and brief bio of your star students to AMTEC@kctcs.edu and we will feature them on the AMTEC website and in AMTEC marketing materials.