

## Higher Ed Working Group – Meeting Notes

February 14, 2017

Middlesex Community College

### Key Discussion Points:

- Any entrepreneurship centers at the community colleges?
- Do any other states have joint tech transfer functions?
- Careful not to create too much structure of entrepreneurial centers, etc.
- Without brain-work and some structure, you get chaos. Need to connect the dots from one step to the next. Interest among faculty builds when they see their colleagues succeed.
- Doubt that other institutions beyond Yale and UConn have the infrastructure or critical mass of research for tech transfer. Suggests need for a shared resource.
- Mentorship from large institutions to the young, startup institutions. A network of entrepreneurship centers. Also statewide or regional network of incubators.
- Underscore collaboration and connection.
- Importance of mentorship for community college students, including summer experience at the universities.
- There needs to be room in the plan for community colleges.
- Some of the most successful entrepreneurs started thinking about being an entrepreneur while in high school.
- Need to focus on a couple a sectors, like aerospace, advanced manufacturing, bioengineering, healthcare, insurance tech. Also need to attract second stage companies.
- Want to keep what we've got. Last year, 23% said entrepreneurship support was part of reason to choose Yale. Used to be only 5% a short while ago. How do we keep the one here that we are attracting?
- How do we support existing small businesses that are attempting to reinvent themselves?
- Leverage capstone projects at community colleges.
- Community colleges are a piece of the solution to Silver Tsunami.
- Community colleges can partner easily with industry. Partnerships exist (e.g. with manufacturers). Can build on them. Create more.
- Leverage relationships (of CCs) that we already have.
- Community colleges have lots of immigrants, including undocumented. A very entrepreneurial population
- Community colleges are building connections to middle schools. Infrastructure for sustainability.
- Is one of the outcomes going to be an "access website"? That lists partnerships, for example.
- Stamford is experimenting with creating multiple centers for entrepreneurship, rather than just one central one.
- Fairfield starting to include arts in entrepreneurship, rather than just business and engineering. Reframed a business competition as a startup competition.

- Quinnipiac does outreach to all of its schools, 3-credit course, 150 hours. A summer stipend to work on campus.
- CT graduates 1,000 undergrad engineering degrees and 700 graduate degrees per year. Many leave the state. One issue is that many CT engineering jobs are in defense and therefore not accessible for foreign students.
- How do we get anything of value out of \$2 million/year? The secret sauce is collaboration. Rotate the graphic to the vertical and make it a funnel. Less and less capability as you go down the funnel. Cost of investments goes up as you go down in the funnel. Separating wheat from chaff. Making sure that you have capability all the way down.
- Food chain.
- Non-degree STEM workforce. State stopped calling them Community TECHNICAL Colleges.
- Credentialing of faculty at CCs to enable more transferability of credits.
- Advisory Committee should only consider proposals from collaborations among two-year, four-year, public and private institutions.