CAET CHARRETTE SUMMARY

On November 1 Metropolitan Community College (MCC) hosted an input session for business and industry leaders to collaborate with MCC on what our proposed Center for Advanced & Emerging Technologies (CAET) concept could provide for the local community. The discussion identified a need for technicians and tradespeople to replace and enhance our current workforce. These newly trained employees will need to exhibit high-order technical skills rooted in technology while having a firm base in oral and written communications. The following is a compilation of what we heard from stakeholders:

Changing Industry = Need for a Changing Educational Model

- Problem/Project Based Learning (PBL) is required
- Training needs to be Multi-Disciplinary creating a hybrid employee
- Develop students' Analytical and Problem Solving Skills
- Utilize all of the building as a "Living Lab" available for students and industry

Continuing Education/Training

- Provide customized training and credentials
- Adapt training to workforce/industry needs
- Training and education will be life-long requirements

Marketing

- Use MCC to improve public perception of technician/trades careers
- Better engage with K-12, especially high school for earlier paths to technical fields
- "Gold Collar" jobs, not "Blue Collar"

Interns/Apprenticeship

- Work with local industry and unions on clear entry path to jobs
- Create accountability and structure
- Mentorship development

Partnerships

- Highlight branded, co-location of industry
- Industry to help develop curriculum
- Better articulation to 4 year higher education
- Make it "Our (the Community's) Technology Center" not just MCC's

Among the discussion, several recurring trends emerged, which we identify as key takeaways for moving forward**.** The above are resources and notes for accomplishing our major tasks, which include not just improvements in the functioning of MCC as a college, but also the wider community:

- Education needs to become more responsive to industry needs
- We need to create a "pipeline" to jobs and careers
- Engaged partnerships are critical (Industry, Unions, K-12, Economic Development)
- Internships/apprenticeships will make students more successful