

Nature of the Partnership: The Mahoning valley Academic Cloud (the MAC)

The collaboration with all entities public and private schools in the MAC will sit on a council with each entity having one representative with four at large community members. The community members will be solicited from the business community with strong ties to k-12. The role of the council will be to approve, evaluate and sustain the MAC beyond the grant application. The MAC council will be an independent body using a simple majority to pass any proposed resolution or regulation.

The meetings will be held at the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center in the Joyce Brooks Center. The meetings will be open to the public and will be advertised in the newspaper. The meetings will include reports on the progress, implementation and evaluation of the MAC. Using Roberts Rules of Order the MAC Council will operate as the director of all things related to the MAC including but not limited to addition or subtraction of courses or course content, rules of operation of the MAC and any other protocols or policies that need developed for the MAC. The MAC will monitor implementation and evaluation including suggesting if needed mid-course corrections.

Evaluator Information

Karen Larwin, PhD, Assistant Professor at YSU, is a quantitative methodologist and nationally recognized program evaluator will provide guidance for the data collection, program impact, program fidelity, and program usage for the five year grant period. Dr. Larwin will work in partnership with the MCEC and the MAC Council to provide regular updates on the progress of the MAC implementation and evaluation including suggesting mid-course corrections if needed. The evaluator's approach is best described as a CIPP model of evaluation (Stufflebeam, 1999). CIPP is a holistic evaluation approach that examines the context, inputs, processes and products (outcomes) of all activities and initiatives. Through this approach, the goals, resources, implementation and outcomes of the MAC its impact on the education of K-16 students in the Mahoning Valley Region can provide comprehensive information to all stakeholders about what is occurring, identify areas for potential improvement, and help to identify those partnerships and opportunities that can assist in the sustainability of these efforts. The strength of this evaluation approach is that it aims to include all pieces of available information.