

January 2025



Director's Message: 2024 Wrapped

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Bytes of Innovation* — the official newsletter of the National IT Innovation Center! NITIC proudly reflects on a transformative year, bringing us closer to our mission of preparing tomorrow's IT workforce for careers in emerging technologies.

Highlights

- NITIC.org debuted as a dynamic hub for resources, attracting 2,500 active users.
- Over 100 colleges joined the IT Innovation Network (ITIN) and participated in community of practice webinars held monthly throughout the fall.
- Six community colleges were awarded \$10,000 mini-grants for their innovative ideas in emerging technologies.
- Nearly 250 educators attended Summer and Fall Working Connections, covering critical topics like AI, data analytics, and cloud computing.
- The National Mega BILT and discipline-specific SME BILTs convened 50+ employers to refine IT curricula and discuss industry trends.

Looking Ahead

As we enter 2025, NITIC remains committed to innovation and diversity, empowering underserved populations and creating pathways to success in IT. With new resources in the Innovation Clearinghouse, upcoming professional development workshops, and technology teams driving emerging trends, the future of IT education is brighter than ever. Be sure to stay connected with the links below!

Larry McWherter

Lawrence "Larry" McWherter
Principal Investigator | National IT Innovation Center



Calendar

- Jan 21: Mega BILT Trends Meeting
- Jan 24: CoP Event AI and the Cyber Workforce
- Jan 28-31: AACC WDI Conference
- Feb 5: BILT Educator Program Info Session
- Feb 7: CoP Event: Operational Technology
- Feb 19: AI Workshop Part I
- Feb 26: AI Workshop Part II
- Feb 26-28: NCPN Conference
- Mar 4: AI SME BILT
- Mar 7: CoP Event: Quantum 2.0
- Mar 9-12: League for Innovation Conference
- April 9-11: NAAIC Summit
- Apr 12-15: AACC Annual Conference
- May 19-23: Summer Working Connections I
- Jul 14-18: Summer Working Connections II
- Jul 21-25: HI-TEC Conference
- Jul 28-Aug 1: Summer Working Connections III

Save the Dates!

Spring Working Connections

Dates: TBD, Weekly Friday/Saturday Series

Location: Online

Summer Working Connections I

Dates: May 19-23

Location: Columbus State - Columbus, OH

Summer Working Connections II

Dates: July 14-18

Location: Collin College - Frisco, TX

Summer Working Connections III

Dates: July 28 – August 1

Location: Online

[Learn More](#)



First Time for Fall

The National IT Innovation Center recently hosted the first-ever Working Connections professional development event outside of the summer and winter months. Working Connections provides no-cost training to IT faculty on in-demand, cutting-edge technologies and skills to help students across the country stay current with industry needs. Across several weeks in October and November, 39 faculty members from 28 schools attended either "AWS Cloud Developing" or "AI Foundations" as online workshops. [See Full Article](#)

Earn Credly Badges

Exciting news! NITIC is now awarding Credly badges to participants who successfully complete Working Connections tracks. These digital badges showcase your expertise and commitment to growth, making it easier to share your accomplishments with your colleges and community. Summer and Fall 2024 completers will be the first to receive badges.

IT Innovation Network

A community of practice for faculty sharing, learning, and problem solving

This fall, we launched our webinar series, and in 2025, we are excited to offer even more opportunities for learning and growth. Click below to register.

AI & The Cybersecurity Workforce

Date: Jan 24 at 1 PM ET

Presenter: Helen Patton

Bridging Technology: An Intro to Operational Technology

Date: Feb 7 at 1 PM ET

Presenter: Rodney Cobb

AI Powered Teaching

Dates: Feb 19 & 26 from

11:00 to 12:30 PM ET

Presenter: Nancy Miller

Facing Quantum 2.0

Date: Mar 7 at 1 PM ET

Presenter: Mo Hasanovic

[Register Here](#)

ITIN Membership



Not an ITIN member? Over 100 colleges have joined the ITIN, granting their faculty and staff access to benefits like our webinar series, mini grants, priority registration to Working Connections, BILT support, and more! **Membership is FREE!**

STEP 1: [ITIN Organization Membership Application](#)

STEP 2: [Create ITIN Member Login](#)

Congratulations 2024 Awardees!



- Bluegrass Community & Technical College
- Forsyth Tech Community College
- Grand Rapids Community College
- Johnstown Community College
- Lake Washington Institute of Technology
- North Arkansas College

Mini-Grants

This past October, NITIC opened the mini-grant application to member schools. The grant awards \$10,000 to individual institutions to complete a project within the next 12 months. The goal of the program is to continually support innovative technician-level focused emerging technology projects. The awards are tentative based on execution of contract terms. [See Full Article](#)

BILT

Industry Collaboration

National BILT

NITIC collaborates with industry leaders nationwide through frequent BILT meetings. Mega BILT meetings look at trends across disciplines while SME BILTs focus on a single IT discipline and prioritize essential job skills. NITIC will be hosting its first AI SME BILT in March! IT Innovation Network members are invited to attend the National BILT meetings, with outcomes on our website for institutions to access.

BILT Educator Cohort

Local Implementation

NITIC is launching its BILT Education program this February. This program offers monthly webinars and ongoing support for a cohort of participants to successfully implement a BILT at their institutions. A faculty and administrator team is recommended to join together. Participants must be ITIN members. The program will include a session during the HI-TEC conference in July — funding provided by NITIC. Attend the February 5 information session to learn more!

National BILT Meetings

Mega BILT - Trends Discussion
January 21 from 10:30 to 11:30 ET

SME BILT - AI Job Skills Analysis
March 4 from 11:30 to 1:30 ET

BILT Implementation

BILT Educator Cohort: Information Session
February 5 from 2:00 to 3:00 ET

[Register Here](#)

Innovation Clearinghouse

NITIC's Innovation Clearinghouse is a collection of IT resources for educators, industry, and the workforce education system. Explore our featured resources or submit your own to contribute!



[Prompt Engineering Workshop](#)



[Earn-and-Learn: WBL Program Guide](#)



[Guide for Data Workers Internships](#)



[BILT Seven Essentials Video](#)

[Submit a Resource](#)



Conferences & Partner-Hosted Opportunities

AACC Workforce Development Institute

Jan 28-21, 2025 - San Diego, CA
NITIC Leaders Attending

NAAIC AI Summit

April 9-11, 2025 - Houston Community College
NITIC Leaders Attending

National Career Pathways Network (NCPN)

Feb 26-28, 2025 - Austin, TX
NITIC Leaders Presenting

AACC National Conference

April 12-15, 2025 - Nashville, TN
NITIC Leaders Attending

League for Innovation in the Community College

March 9-12, 2025 - San Antonio, TX
NITIC Leaders Presenting

WASTC vFDW

June 2-6 & 9-13, 2025 - Online
NITIC Sponsoring

HI-TEC Conference

July 21-24, 2025 - Minneapolis, MN
[Call for Proposals Open](#)



This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation under Grant No. 2300188. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

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