NITIC
National Information Technology Innovation Center

Calendar

Jan. 23: CoP Event - Power Apps

Jan. 28-32: WDI 2026

Feb. 2: Faculty AI Job Shadowing App Opens

Feb. 6: CoP Event - Mini-Grants Showcase

Feb. 10: Mega-BILT Trends Meeting

Feb. 11: CoP Event: Tech Talks - Data

Feb. 13-Mar. 17: Spring Working Connections

Feb. 19-20: NAAIC AI Summit 2026

Mar. 2-5: Achieving the Dream 2026

Mar. 13: CoP Event - Nano LLMs

Mar. 15-18: Innovations Conference

April 3: CoP Event - Analyzing Job Postings

April 13: Mini-Grants Round 3 Application Opens

April 15: CoP Event: Tech Talks - Software

May 1: Working Connections Symposium

May 6: CoP Event - Yearly Recap

June 8: Mini-Grants Round 3 Application Closes

July 27-30: HITEC 2026

New Year, New Initiatives!

The National IT Innovation Center (NITIC) is gearing up for an exciting year in 2026, introducing a suite of programs and events designed to advance technology education and empower faculty across the country. Here's what's on the horizon:

- **Faculty AI Job Shadowing** – Hands-on exposure to AI-driven workflows for educators. Application opens Feb. 2. Learn more here.

- **Spring Working Connections** – Two workshop rounds: Feb 13–Mar 13 and Mar 20–Apr 17. Registration opening this month.

- **Working Connections Symposium** – May 1, 2026: Virtual showcase of innovative teaching strategies. Registration and presentation information will be coming soon.

- **Mini-Grants Round 3** – Funding for faculty-led projects to enhance IT education. Applications open April 13. Learn more here.

- **On-Premise AI Pilot** – Secure, localized AI infrastructure for community colleges. More information will be coming soon.

As NITIC moves into 2026, its mission remains clear: to empower educators, strengthen IT programs, and drive innovation across the national community college network. By fostering collaboration, advancing emerging technologies, and providing practical resources, NITIC continues to shape the future of technology education—ensuring faculty and students are prepared to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital world. Read the full article here.

Featured Blog: Using GitHub Classroom for Software Development Instruction

Managing programming assignments for large classes can be challenging: distributing starter code, tracking submissions, grading, and providing rapid feedback are all time-intensive tasks. GitHub Classroom offers a powerful solution that blends industry-standard tools with classroom workflow, allowing instructors to manage projects using the same platforms students will encounter in professional software development.

See full article

IT Innovation Network

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

We have a lot of exciting CoP events coming up this semester full of engaging topics and new formats. Click below to register.

Microsoft PowerApps Fundamentals	**Mini-Grants Showcase**	**Tech Talks: Data Management & Analytics**	**Nano LLMs**
Date: Jan 23 at 1 PM ET	**Date:** Feb 6 at 1 PM ET	**Date:** Feb 11 at 1 PM ET	**Date:** Mar 13 at 1 PM ET
Presenter: Nancy Miller	**Presenters:** Round I Mini-Grant Recipients	**Presenters:** Tech Team	**Presenters:** Kyle Jones & Doug Hampton

Register Here

ITIN Membership

Not an ITIN member? Colleges across the country 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

Working Connections
IT Faculty Development Institute

2025 Working Connections Recap

This past year, NITIC hosted six events featuring 22 in-demand tracks, 6 delivered in-person and 16 online. With 664 total registrations and 406 participants placed into tracks, we provided educators with the tools and knowledge to stay ahead in the rapidly evolving IT landscape.

We're excited to continue and expand Working Connections in 2026, starting with Spring Working Connections I and II. Be on the lookout for information regarding registration and track topics!

Registration is opening soon!

Spring Working Connections

Session I: February 13 - March 13
Session II: March 20 - April 17
Time: Fridays 1-5 PM ET
Online: Engagez Platform

Track Topics:
AI Tools in the Classroom
Advanced Data
Python
Quantum Computing
Cloud+
(Topics are tentative)

BILT

Network members are invited to attend the National BILT meetings, with outcomes on our website for institutions to access. 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.

Labor Market Bytes from Infrastructure & Cloud SME

See the full labor market report here.

1. **High Demand for Entry-Level Roles:** Over 17,000 postings exist for roles requiring 0–3 years of experience and an associate's degree. (Data from November 2024-2025).
2. **Regional Hotspots:** Washington-Arlington, NYC tri-state, and Dallas-Fort Worth lead growth; Texas tops states with 1,388 postings.
3. **Stable Trends & Quick Hiring:** Postings average 1,370 per month with a 2:1 posting intensity, showing efficient hiring and retention.
4. **Skills & Industries:** Employers seek AI, workflow, compliance skills plus soft skills; roles span healthcare, education, and government.
5. **Competitive Pay:** Median salary for top 10 entry-level occupations is $74,662, up 19.7% in three years, with hourly wages for all jobs averaging $33.42.

Mini-Grants for Innovation Projects

Round III Timeline

- Monday, April 13: Application Opens
- Monday, June 8: Application Closes
- Friday, June 26: Final Awards determined
- Award Period: September 1, 2026 - August 31, 2027

Applicant office hours available as needed

As 2025 wraps up, the National IT Innovation Center (NITIC) congratulates its first round of mini-grant recipients for completing their projects and invites members to the Mini-Grants Showcase on February 6. Building on this success, NITIC is thrilled to announce eight innovative projects awarded in the second round of mini-grants, reflecting the creativity and commitment of educators advancing technician-level curriculum and preparing students for the future of work. Read the full article here.

Conferences & Partner-Hosted Opportunities

NITIC will be at the following conferences this spring, connect with us if you're also attending!

Workforce Development Institute 2026
Where: New Orleans, Louisiana
Dates: January 28-31

NAAIC AI Summit 2026
Where: Miami, Florida
Dates: February 19-20

Achieving the Dream 2026
Where: Portland, Oregon
Dates: March 2-5

Innovations Conference 2026
Where: Indianapolis, Indiana
Dates: March 16-18

NITIC is hosted by:
COLUMBUS STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Featured Labor Market Reports

Lightcast - Beyond the Buzz
Lightcast - The Rising Storm
WEF Future of Jobs Report 2025