

Spring 2026



## Turning Faculty Development Into Student Impact

New longitudinal survey data shows that Working Connections (WC) delivers impact beyond the training itself, with faculty improving courses and sharing practices that benefit tens of thousands of students.

**Across surveys from Winter 2023–Summer 2025, participants reported teaching 1,322 courses and reaching 35,000+ students using WC content and methods. In the most recent survey of 248 participants, more than 80% said they are already incorporating or plan to incorporate WC content.**

Collaboration amplifies the impact, with 163 respondents collaborating with a WC peer after training and 193 sharing content with colleagues at their institutions. Faculty also observed gains in students' technical proficiency, problem-solving, and interest in IT careers, including 72 students earning industry certifications in certification-aligned tracks.

## New Partnership with CODE Magazine

NITIC has launched a new partnership with CODE Group/Magazine, a long-standing leader in software development and technical publishing, to bring real-world industry insight directly to IT classrooms.

Network members get a **complimentary 1-year digital subscription** and gain expanded access to CODE Magazine content, webinars, and professional learning resources that reflect how software and AI-enabled systems are being built today.

Visit: <https://codemag.com/Magazine/Subscribe/NITIC>



## Winter & Spring Conference Highlights

This winter and spring, NITIC connected with educators, industry partners, and national leaders at several key conferences, including the **AACC Workforce Development Institute**, the **NAAIC AI Summit**, **Achieving the Dream**, and the **League for Innovation in the Community College**.

Across these events, conversations centered on practical AI adoption, workforce-aligned instruction, and how colleges are responding to rapid skill change. These engagements continue to inform NITIC's professional development offerings, employer engagement strategies, and national resource development.



## Industry Alignment & Workforce Insights

### BILT Toolkit Updates

The BILT Toolkit has been refreshed with updated videos, presentations, and how-to resources designed to help colleges implement the BILT model. Explore these tools on the [Local BILT Implementation](#) page.

### BILT Meetings Recap

NITIC hosted two **National BILT meetings** this quarter, bringing together employers and educators to discuss industry needs and workforce preparation. The February 10th **Mega BILT Trends meeting** included 20 employers and focused on how artificial intelligence is reshaping IT roles while reinforcing the importance of strong foundational skills. Employers emphasized that AI is more often augmenting work than replacing jobs, and that alignment with business needs remains critical.

The March 24th **Data Management SME BILT** brought together 13 employer SMEs for a structured job skills vote and discussion focused on entry level data management technicians. Employers prioritized skills related to data security, access control, data architectures, scripting, and the growing role of AI in data workflows. Across both meetings, participants stressed the need for graduates who can pair technical skills with critical thinking, communication, and an understanding of business context.

Educators and partners can explore detailed results, voting outcomes, and additional resources by visiting the [National BILT page](#) on the NITIC website.

### Labor Market Bytes

NITIC recently developed two labor market reports based on topics raised during recent National BILT meetings, translating employer insights into data-driven workforce trends. The reports highlight strong national demand for entry-level infrastructure, cloud, data, and AI-enabled roles, with employers emphasizing foundational skills, workflow awareness, and business context alongside emerging technologies. The labor market reports are available on the [Labor Market Data](#) page of the NITIC website.



## From the NITIC Blog:

Several NITIC blog posts published this quarter highlight how emerging tools are influencing instruction. Here are two highlights:



### **AI Agents: Last Year's Most Popular and Impactful AI Trend Will Continue in 2026**

AI is moving beyond chatbots. In this article, NITIC Tech Team member Jonnathan Resendiz explores how AI agents—autonomous systems that can reason, plan, and act—are reshaping cloud infrastructure, business operations, and education, and why this trend is expected to dominate conversations in 2026.



### **Using GitHub Classroom for Software Development Instruction**

Managing coding assignments at scale can be challenging. In this article, NITIC Tech Team member David Singletary shares how GitHub Classroom can streamline assignment distribution, submissions, grading, and feedback while giving students hands on experience with industry standard software development tools and workflows.

These posts reflect NITIC's focus on practical adoption and supporting faculty as technology becomes embedded in everyday teaching and learning. Visit [NITIC News](#) to see these full articles and many more!

## Mini-Grants for Innovation Projects

### **Round 1 Project Resources Now Available**

The Mini Grant Round 1 projects for the 2025-2026 cycle wrapped up their awards this quarter. Final project materials were gathered and are being disseminated to the NITIC network on the [Innovation Hub](#). The Round 1 projects included:

- AI Future League, Bluegrass Community & Technical College
- Career Exploration in IOT, Forsyth Technical & Community College
- AI Capstone for Technician Education, Grand Rapids Community College
- AI Program Development, Johnston Community College
- Flipped Classroom with ChatGPT, Lake Washington Institute of Technology
- Artificial Intelligence Summer Institute, North Arkansas College

### **Upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP)**

A new RFP will be released soon. Application details will be posted on the [Mini-Grant Program](#) page when it becomes available.

### **Round 3 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



# Community of Practice Event Recap

This quarter's CoP webinars showcased a wide range of approaches to innovation in IT education.

- **Microsoft Power Apps Fundamentals**, led by Nancy Miller of Forsyth Technical and Community College, demonstrated how educators can use low code tools with Microsoft 365 to build functional solutions for classrooms.
- The **Mini Grant Innovation Project Showcase** highlighted faculty-led projects from six projects across the network, featuring creative uses of AI, flipped classroom models, faculty professional development, and industry-engaged learning experiences.
- **Nano LLMs**, with NITIC Co-PI Kyle Jones and Doug Hampton of Sinclair College, explored how faculty are building and deploying local large language models to create course specific learning supports while maintaining control, privacy, and academic guardrails.

Recordings, slides, and related resources are available to members on the [CoP Events](#) page.

## Looking Ahead: Summer 2026

### Summer Working Connections

NITIC will offer three WC sessions over the summer, including two in-person weeks in Ohio and Texas, and one online. Visit the Working Connections page on the website for registration windows and course details.

### Faculty AI Job Shadowing

The pilot cohort of faculty participants has been onboarded and will begin their industry job-shadowing experiences this summer.

### HI-TEC Conference

NITIC will host a reception on July 28 and will have an exhibit booth. We look forward to connecting with members and partners!



## Calendar

- April 10: CoP Event - Coding with Agentic AI
- April 13: Mini-Grants Round 3 Application Opens
- April 15: CoP Event: Tech Talks - Software
- April 28: Mega BILT
- May 1: Working Connections Symposium
- May 6: CoP Event - Yearly Recap
- June 1-4: Working Connections Ohio
- June 8: Mini-Grants Round 3 Application Closes
- July 13-17: Working Connections Texas
- July 20-24: Working Connections Online
- July 27-30: HI-TEC 2026

## 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!**



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