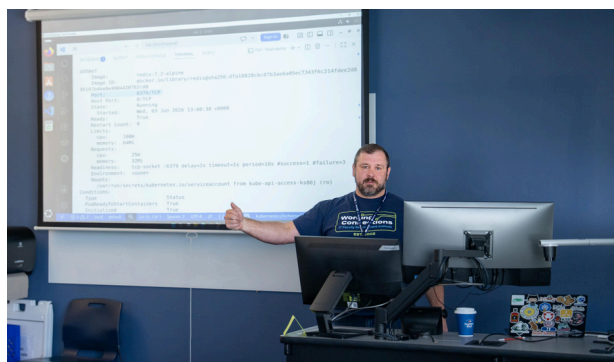
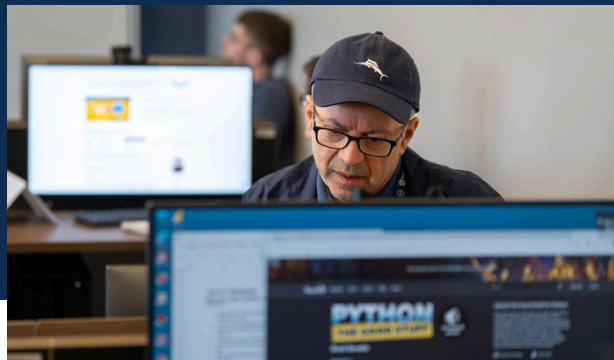


Summer 2026



Working Connections at Columbus State

Educators from across the country gathered in Columbus, Ohio the first week of June, for the Summer 2026 Working Connections event, where **45 participants** from over **30 institutions** engaged in four days of hands-on IT training and collaboration. The three tracks included Data Analytics, DevOps, and AI-Powered Cybersecurity.

Through focused learning tracks and networking opportunities, attendees gained practical skills, shared ideas, and built connections, with **96%** reporting the experience provided high-quality, applicable training.

Participants returned to their institutions equipped with new tools and insights to strengthen their programs. [Read More](#)

Inaugural Working Connections Symposium

NITIC's inaugural Working Connections Symposium, held on May 1st, brought educators nationwide together for a virtual day of "show and tell" sessions focused on advancing IT education. The event attracted **115 registrations** from **64 organizations**.

Sessions highlighted how faculty are applying workshop learning in real classrooms, integrating AI, cloud tools, and workforce-aligned pathways into their programs.

Strong participation underscored growing demand for collaboration between education and industry to prepare the future workforce. [Read More](#)

**Working
Connections**
IT Faculty Development Institute

AI Job Shadowing Program Underway

This summer, the pilot cohort for NITIC’s Faculty AI Job Shadowing program began. These six faculty members will spend 80 hours with an industry partner, exploring how artificial intelligence is being used in real-world business settings.

This fall, the cohort will share their experiences and key takeaways. See the table for participating members.

Congratulations to the 2026 Cohort!

Amelina Ahmeti
Florida State College at Jacksonville
Lenderwise

Divya Ialitha Vydula
Columbus State Community College
MLiglon, Inc.

Lynette Borjeson Painter
Bismark State College
Sanford Health

Matt Green
Waukesha County Tech College
Validus AI Partners

Ryan Ammons
Northern Virginia Community College
BigBear.ai

Samantha Hench
Kirkwood Community College
Meeker Technologies



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.

Insights from a BILT Member

Following the April 28 NITIC BILT discussion on emerging IT workforce trends, longtime member Phillip Andrews shared additional insights on how AI is reshaping the workforce. Rather than focusing on jobs being displaced, Andrews highlighted emerging roles such as prompt engineers, AI ethics and compliance officers, AI literacy educators, and AI solutions architects.

His message: Prepare learners for an AI-enabled future by building adaptable technical skills. [Read the full article here.](#)



Labor Market Bytes

NITIC developed two labor market reports last quarter based on topics raised during recent National BILT meetings:

- **Database Management Labor Market Bytes (March 2026):** Entry-level database careers continue to offer solid opportunities, with salaries up 6.1% since 2023.
- **Industry Trends Labor Market Bytes (April 2026):** Employers continue to report hiring challenges despite a strong talent pool, suggesting that skill alignment and career readiness may be as important as workforce supply.



Visit the [Labor Market Data](#) to view the full reports.

From the NITIC Blog:

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



What's Behind the Drop in Computer Science Majors

Computer science enrollment is declining as students grow uncertain about tech careers due to layoffs and AI's impact.

However, demand remains strong, with employers seeking adaptable graduates, highlighting the need to better communicate evolving career opportunities.



Braid, Don't Build: Why Community Colleges Must Stop Siloing AI

Community colleges are rapidly launching standalone AI programs, but doing so often undermines existing programs and creates silos that limit student access to integrated, real-world skills. The article argues institutions should “braid” AI into all programs embedding it across curricula to strengthen workforce readiness, preserve proven pathways, and promote equity for all learners

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

The program continues to support innovative IT education projects for our network members.

- Applications for Round 3 (2026-2027) recently closed and are currently under review, with award notifications expected in late July.
- Round 2 (2025-2026) recipients are wrapping up their projects this summer and will share outcomes in the fall.
- Round 1 (2024-2025) and Round 2 awardees will gather at HI-TEC next month for a Special Interest Group (SIG), where they will lead interactive roundtable discussions and share lessons learned from their work.



Community of Practice - Webinar Events Recap

- **Coding with Agentic AI**, led by Adam Richardson, demonstrated the practical implications of Claude Code, and walked through some possible classroom integrations.
- The **Software Development Tech Talk** was a tech-team led discussion-based webinar that discussed what credentials are being offered, programming languages for the future, and integration of cyber into software development.
- The **Year End Webinar** featured highlights from the last year of ITIN webinars. Attendees reflected on what we learned together and participated in answering questions about what they'd like to see next.



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

- **Mini-Grants Special Interest Group: Tuesday, July 28 (Invite Only)** Participants will learn directly from project leads, examine transferable practices, and discuss strategies for adapting similar innovations on their own campuses.
- **NITIC Reception: Tuesday, July 28, 5:30-6:30 CT** NITIC invites all HI-TEC attendees with an IT or cyber focus to join us to learn more about the center and connect with colleagues. Enjoy light refreshments and conversation!
- **Nano LLMs: Teaching With Tiny Titans: Thursday, July 30, 1:45-2:30 CT:** Join this concurrent session with NITIC PIs to see a demonstration in local LLM deployment.
- **Exhibit Booth: Booth #36:** Team members will be at the booth Wednesday and Thursday during all breaks and the Exhibit Hall Reception. Come say hello, learn more about the center, and pick up some NITIC swag!

Looking Ahead: Fall 2026

Fall Working Connections

NITIC will offer two separate events this fall from September to November, each spanning five Friday afternoons. Visit the Working Connections page on the website for registration windows and course details.

CoP Webinars

Our monthly webinars will return in September! This year, webinars will run from 12 PM ET - 1 PM ET. We have many exciting topics planned, stay tuned!

NSF ATI PI Conference

NITIC will have a large presence at the PI conference in Washington DC in October. We will have an exhibit booth and several sessions. We hope to see you there!



Calendar

July 20-24: Working Connections Online

July 27-30: HI-TEC 2026

Sept. 1: Mini-Grants Round 3 Projects Begin

Sept. 11: Welcome Back ITIN webinar

Sept. 11-Oct. 9: Fall I WC

Oct. 2: AI Job Shadowing Recap webinar

Oct. 16-Nov. 20: Fall II WC

Oct. 21-23: NSF ATE PI Conference

Nov. 6: Automation & Workflows webinar

Dec. 4: Data Centers webinar

Dec. 15-17: Winter WC

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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