

IMPACT REPORT

2025-2026



NITIC
National Information Technology
Innovation Center



The **National IT Innovation Center (NITIC)** serves as a hub for IT technician education, connecting educators, industry leaders, government agencies, and other stakeholders preparing tomorrow's workforce for emerging technology jobs.

NITIC helps community college IT faculty and programs stay connected, innovative, and industry aligned while responding to rapid skill change in AI, cybersecurity, cloud, data analytics, networking, infrastructure, and other emerging IT areas. This year, NITIC expanded its national community, strengthened industry-informed resources, and increased access to faculty training.

Working
together
to prepare
the IT professionals of
tomorrow

NATIONAL IMPACT

IT

175+

**COLLEGES
CONNECTED**

Through the IT
Innovation
Network (ITIN)



770+

**EDUCATORS
ENGAGED**

Learning, collaborating,
and resource sharing



1100+

**TRAINING
ENROLLMENTS**

in high-demand,
emerging IT areas



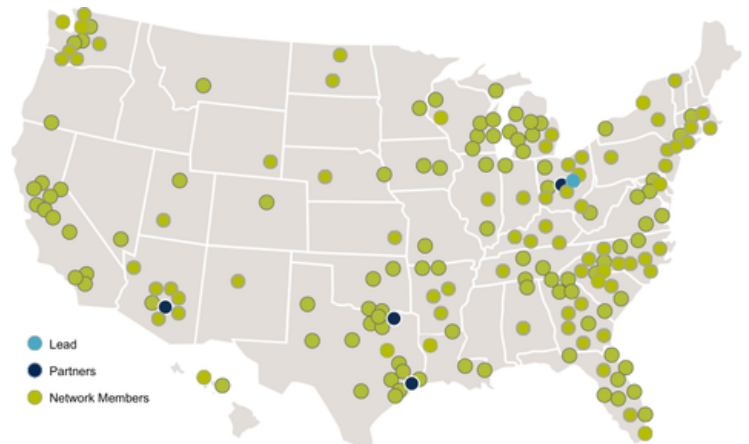
500+

**EMPLOYER-
VALIDATED JOB
SKILLS**

Aligned to real-world
workforce needs

Watch NITIC's Impact Story

Scan to see how educators,
institutions, and industry partners
are working together to strengthen
the IT workforce.



COLUMBUS STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Collin College (TX) | Lone Star College (TX) |
Maricopa Community Colleges (AZ) | Sinclair College (OH)

Professional Development

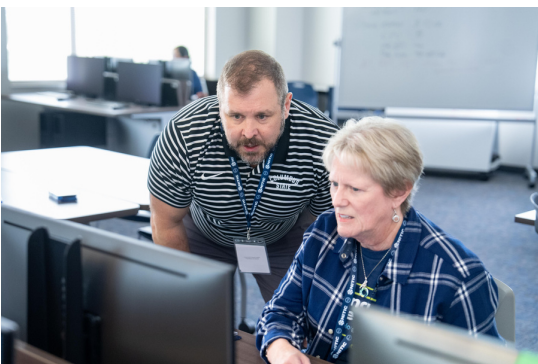
In 2025-2026, NITIC expanded **Working Connections** offerings, its tuition-free, in-depth training program for IT educators nationwide. Trainings focused on high-demand technologies, helping faculty build skills, earn certificates, and apply new learning in the classroom.

- 23 trainings offered across fall, winter, spring, and summer series
- 445 participants enrolled, averaging 20 per training
- 88% completion rate across 2025-2026 trainings
- 11 AI-focused tracks, including five integrating AI with cybersecurity, AWS, or other IT topics
- Additional topics included cybersecurity, data analytics, quantum computing, professional skills, cloud computing, DevOps, and BILT
- 93% of respondents planned or had already updated curriculum based on Working Connections training

47,000+ STUDENTS IMPACTED through Working Connections coursework, based on cumulative six-month follow-up survey data

Working Connections Symposium

The first Working Connections Symposium featured nine past participants sharing classroom practices and drew 127 educators from 76 institutions. The event gave faculty a forum to exchange practical examples of how Working Connections trainings have translated into course updates and student learning.



Instructors Eric Wagner and Conrad Dela Cruz teach IT faculty members at the Columbus State session of Working Connections.

“ Working Connections provides a valuable resource for training that is not available for most faculty. It is a critical source for future workforce and talent in the U.S. ”

- Shankar Ravi, NorthWest Arkansas Community College

Community of Practice

The **IT Innovation Network (ITIN)** helps IT faculty nationwide stay connected, learn from one another, and share promising practices through webinars events and discussion forums.

- 176 participating organizations and 610 members with login credentials
- 10 webinar events and four Tech Talks on emerging IT, cross-sector integration, data analytics, cybersecurity, and software development
- 177 unique participants from 95 organizations attended 14 events
- 63% of registrants attended, averaging 30 participants per event
- Topics included the student job market, AI-powered teaching, coding with agentic AI, nano LLMs, institutional AI policies, teaching SQL, and data center job skills
- 65% of ITIN survey respondents updated curriculum, shared NITIC learning, or updated technology based on NITIC engagement

“ My entire curriculum includes AI as a tool, while fostering the ethical and intellectual (proper) use of models I learned from NITIC events, resources, and webinars. ”

- Glenn Kimball, Collin College



Labor Market Demands

NITIC helps keep educators aligned with industry through curated labor market briefings.



9.88M

new jobs in last 3 years;
strong growth in AI, Data
Analytics, Data Systems



20%

median projected
growth in top 10 IT
skills over next 2 years



7 of 10

top 10 IT skills are
rapidly growing relative
to the market

Source: Lightcast

Industry Alignment

NITIC engages industry through its **Business & Industry Leadership Teams (BILTs)** to help align programs with real-world workforce needs. Through Mega BILTs and SME BILTs, employers define job skills and trends in emerging technologies. This turns employer insight into tools colleges can use to prepare students for current and future IT roles.

- 3 Mega BILT Trends meetings on hiring trends, technician skills, and the future workforce
- 3 KSA voting sessions covered Infrastructure & Cloud, Data Management, and Soft Skills
- 86 instances of employer participation and 43 ITIN members at BILT meetings
- 529 KSAs evaluated since the Center's inception
- 5 labor market reports aligned national employment data with BILT voting and trends
- Local BILT implementation support through a HI-TEC SIG and follow-ups with five institutions
- AI Faculty Job Shadowing launched its first cohort, with six faculty shadowing industry partners for 80-hour summer experience.

“Implementing the BILT model at NOVA Community College has enabled effective collaboration with our industry partners, leading to the development of new AI-focused curriculum.”

- Shahpar Islam, Northern Virginia Community College

Mini-Grant Funding

NITIC's mini-grants support faculty-led innovation that turns promising practices into classroom projects other institutions can adapt. Projects explored AI-driven problem-solving, IoT career exploration, AI outreach for high school students, industrial automation labs, and new AI-focused curriculum.

- Round 1 (6) projects concluded in Dec. 2025 and shared outcomes in a Feb. 2026 showcase
- Round 2 (8) projects were awarded in Sept. 2025 and continue through August 2026
- Round 3 drew a record 25 applicants, with final awards expected in late July 2026
- Cumulative mini-grant investment exceeds \$230,000 for new IT education products and practices



Grand Rapids Community College students partnered with local business owners to build practical AI tools, including marketing assistants, customer support tools, and FAQ automation. The Intro to AI course capstone was developed with support from a NITIC mini-grant.

Innovation Hub

The Innovation Hub was refreshed and expanded. The platform now separates vetted faculty resources from member-generated content for easier access. NITIC also added IT Industry News, a dedicated stream of timely updates, expert insights, and trend analysis from across tech.

- 65 member-created resources, including Technology Team blog posts, mini-grant reports, BILT resources, conference materials, and NITIC news
- 74 resources such as publications, networks, software, AI platforms, and vendor training
- 362 users viewed Innovation Hub webpages
- 3 office hours held to help faculty submit resources



National Conferences

NITIC shares its work to broaden its impact and engage with the wider IT education community. Topics included AI-infused curriculum, BILT implementation, job skills customization, and IT educator tools

ATE PI Conference 2025

AI Trends Panel • BILT Innovation Demo • ATE Connects

HI-TEC 2026

Mini-Grant SIG • Nano LLM Session • NITIC Reception • Exhibit Booth

Additional Conferences

NAAIC Summit • AACC WDI Conference • Achieving the Dream • League for Innovation • AACC Annual Summit • NCyTE Cyber Across Disciplines

Looking Ahead: 2026-2027

- Launch Power BI dashboard for participant management and outcome data
- Share first-cohort AI Faculty Job Shadowing reports and prepare for the next cohort
- Grow Technology Team resources
- Expand Innovation Hub contributions
- Support mini-grant dissemination through HI-TEC and reporting
- Support local BILT implementation and job skills resource use

The National Information Technology Innovation Center (NITIC) is an NSF ATE National Center, funded by the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program, which strengthens the skills of technicians who work in high-tech, STEM fields that drive the U.S. economy.

Award Dates: 9/1/2023-8/31/2028

Total Award: \$7,475,000



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