

Convergence College Network Benefits

The Convergence College Network (CCN) is a select cohort of community colleges and universities from across the country that connects IT educators with a wealth of resources to enhance their programs. CCN member schools receive benefits based on their unique level of engagement and participation. The chart below explains the differences in benefits offered to Level 1 and Level 2 members. The activities required to receive full Level 1 benefits are explained on the next page.

Benefits	Level 1	Level 2
Participate in unique cost-reduction virtual labs that share technology resources online among several schools	✓	
Register early for National CTC free professional development events in advance of the general public	✓	
Request sizable travel reimbursement assistance for National CTC professional development events	✓	
Access a robust collection of IT/convergence curricula and classroom resources developed by instructors	✓	✓
Collaborate with other CCN members across the country to incorporate new technologies, build academic alliances, develop strategies for program improvement, and share models for recruitment and retention	✓	✓
Learn how to develop your own regional Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT) and get your program aligned with workforce needs	✓	✓
Network with National CTC leaders who have written successful grants to brainstorm ideas and get feedback on proposals as time permits	✓	✓
Receive regular updates on current industry trends and job skills needs from National CTC's Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT)	✓	✓

To assist new CCN members, the National CTC will also provide:

- A senior CCN faculty member for mentoring and consulting
- An administrative point of contact to address questions and concerns
- A resource overview explaining how to participate in the community and leverage its expertise



Convergence College Network Levels

For colleges who are interested in joining the Convergence College Network, we have an application and other criteria that we require to access the benefits offered by the CCN. Colleges must also be able to provide sufficient equipment for a lab, available faculty to work on the program, and appropriate time to work with a CCN mentor.

Levels of Participation

There are two different levels of participation for CCN members. The benefits available to each level differ based on participation of the college. Member colleges who wish to receive the maximum level of benefits will be required to invest more time and energy in the program. Colleges new to the CCN must join at Level 2. After demonstrating consistent engagement with the CCN, those schools may then qualify for Level 1.

Level 1 Mandatory Activities

- Provide yearly evidence of two local/regional Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT) meetings
- One of your two yearly local/regional BILT meetings must validate job skills annually following the National CTC model
- Submit yearly CCN status report (enrollment #s, graduation #s, etc.)

Level 1 & 2 General Activities

- Participate in CCN calls/meetings and special webinars
- Attend the National Business and Industry Leadership Team calls/meetings
- Participate in National CCN Administrator calls
- Send one or more faculty to Summer and/or Winter Working Connections
- Develop/update degree or certificate plan based on job skills outcome
- Employ departmental student recruitment and retention strategies separate from wider school strategies
- Attend and/or present at one or more IT/convergence professional development conferences
- Host one or more local recruitment events
- Submit a student success video to the CTC

Points System

Points will be awarded to CCN member schools based on the activities (shown above) in which they participate over a 12-month period. Level 1 member schools perform the mandatory activities *plus* earn a minimum of 24 points. Level 2 schools participate in at least one general activity, but are encouraged to participate in all of the activities shown above.

If you have any questions about the CCN benefits and levels, or are interested in joining the CCN, please contact:

Mark Dempsey, CTC Assistant Director

mdempsey@collin.edu

(972) 377-1582



This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 1700530. 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.