

Major New National Forward-facing Employer-driven IT Skill Standards Initiative Funded by the National Science Foundation

BACKGROUND:

The IT Skill Standards 2020 and Beyond project is developing employer-led, up-to-date skill standards and model curriculum outlines with the goal of expanding the pipeline of right-skilled individuals to fill the many open IT jobs across the nation over the next several years.

- Last comprehensive IT Skills Standards were developed in 2003 and were widely-used by educators and employers.
- Some groups have addressed portions of IT; however, there is no comprehensive, easy-to-use set of standards for the most critically-needed IT job clusters looking into the future. Standards already developed will be used as a basis for this work as appropriate.

A group of IT thought leaders (mostly CIOs and CTOs) identified the most immediate and critical 7 future-focused job clusters in February, 2019.

- Software Development
- Infrastructure Connectivity and Management
- Technical Support
- Technical Project/Program Management
- Security
- Data Management and Engineering
- Data Analytics and Predictive Modeling

WE NEED YOU! Skill Standards Work per job cluster will be driven by SMEs starting in June 2019.

- 20 Educator Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) will attend face-to-face meetings being held in 3 different locations (to minimize travel time) as active listeners. At these meetings, business SMEs will develop draft skill standards in a 1-day structured process developed by our team of researchers based on work originally done by the US Air Force. Virtual access to these meetings will be available as well. All travel costs covered will be reimbursed by the grant.
- Our research team will synthesize the results from the 3 meetings and will use surveys with the SMEs to gain consensus.
- Work on the first job cluster (Infrastructure) will begin in June 2019, and work on other clusters will be spaced at 60 to 90 day intervals thereafter.
- Educator SMEs who attend the face-to-face meetings will be responsible for developing student learning outcomes from the prioritized list of knowledge, skills, abilities, and critical tasks the employer SMEs identify. These student learning outcomes will be posted on the project website with attribution to the educator SMEs who developed them.

Contact Dr. Ann Beheler, lead for the project, at abeheler@collin.edu 972-377-1649. More information is also available at www.connectedtech.org at the top of the home page. We look forward to working with you!