



CTC

National Convergence Technology Center

Collin College
Frisco, TX

<http://connectedtech.org>

“CTC’s BILT provides an excellent opportunity for me to help guide the nationwide development of two-year technology degrees that are increasingly, urgently needed for the multitude of open positions in the IT and cybersecurity fields.”

Aaron Burciaga, Global Operations Director,
Data Science and Advanced Analytics
HCL America
Washington, DC

Working Connections Helps Faculty Teach New IT Technologies

Just since 2016 CTC has delivered eight intensive professional development events—called Working Connections—on 23 cutting-edge topics. The 258 faculty attendees have been from 107 colleges in 30 states. Most of the educators attended multiple events.



In a longitudinal survey conducted in 2019, 75% of the 222 faculty respondents reported that the Working Connections sessions they participated in between January 2016 and December 2018 focused on topics that they were not already teaching.

By providing faculty with easy access to top-notch programming about new IT technologies, CTC helps educators deliver new IT technologies to their classrooms and teach students skills they may not have otherwise been able to learn. Working Connections is now in its nineteenth year.

As a senior network engineer, a CTC program graduate manages a municipality’s IT infrastructure.

Key Activities

- Engages its Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT) to co-lead all activities.
- Facilitates collaboration between 74 institutions to share curriculum and processes.
- Offers Working Connections professional development workshops for IT faculty.
- Leads development of seven regional education hubs to strengthen 2+2+2 articulation.





CTC's BILT Model Provides Process for Innovation

At the request of its national Business Industry Leadership Team (BILT), CTC developed an employer-led course that uses hybrid cloud business problems to teach high-demand technical and employability skills. At the BILT's suggestion CTC staffers also developed e-portfolio exercises for existing IT courses. In fall 2019, 62 students at six colleges were testing the e-portfolios' value for demonstrating expertise at job interviews.

CTC's Convergence College Network (CCN), a community of practice, continues to gather information about institutional challenges to implementation of the "BILT model" in order to formulate strategies to overcome them. CTC developed the BILT and promotes its use for engaging business leaders as co-leaders of academic programs through quarterly meetings and annual job skills updates.

CTC has disseminated information about the BILT model to more than 1,000 people at 22 education conferences since 2015. Colleges are now using BILTs to strengthen existing programs, to develop new programs, or to align curricula with workforce needs.

BILT adopters include Maricopa Community College (AZ); Northeast Iowa Community College; Luzerne County Community College (PA); Central Community College (NE); and Forsyth Technical Community College (NC).



Students practice wireless networking skills in a CTC-supported cloud classroom lab.

CTC Working Connections Outcomes 2016-2018

943

Courses Impacted

64

New Programs Created

Working Connections professional development events have directly influenced information technology classroom instruction and creation of new programs.

