



Fall 2017

The National Convergence Technology Center of Excellence (CTC) – funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation – focuses on business-led Information Technology (IT)/Communications/Cybersecurity curriculum, faculty professional development, recruitment and retention of under-served populations, and dissemination of best practices and resources to high schools, colleges, and universities across the nation. Everything we do has the common goal of supporting students to become highly-sought-after IT workers.

We believe the cornerstone to any successful workforce program is a close relationship between educators and business. Aligning curriculum outcomes with the skills businesses demand is essential to ensuring students are readily employable upon graduation. For over 16 years, the CTC has been co-led by our Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT) with over 40 active members from companies such as Cisco, Comerica Bank, Dell, Le-Vel, EMC, HP, Juniper, NetApp, Philips Healthcare, Texas Instruments, and VMware. The BILT co-owns and co-leads all our work.

Our strategies and successes over the years were co-developed by the BILT and our educational grant partners including current partners El Centro College, Lone Star College, and The University of North Texas (TX); Florida State College Jacksonville; Georgia Southern University; Lansing Community College (MI); and Sinclair Community College (OH). We also work integrally with institutions that form our “Convergence College Network” (CCN) Community of Practice to share best practices and support each other. In this grant the CCN will grow from 60 member schools to 90 as more high schools and universities are added. We’re also indebted to the ongoing generous support of our host institution, Collin College, one of the most successful and forward-thinking community colleges in the country.

It’s been a dramatic journey that’s seen IT industry bubbles and busts, the decline of traditional telephony and rise of VoIP and wireless networking, and now the emerging transformational boom of cloud-based innovations and the “Internet of Things.” Through it all, the CTC remained committed to giving students the cutting-edge skills they need to get and keep a high-wage career with expansive future potential.

This website showcases the CTC’s robust resources and successful programs. We hope you’ll enjoy learning more about our efforts to prepare students for the high-wage, ever-changing IT workforce and will want to join us in building the future IT workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Beheler".

Ann Beheler, PhD
Principal Investigator