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

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

- The last time comprehensive IT Skills Standards were developed was in 2003. These were widely-used by educators and employers.
- Since then, some groups have addressed portions of IT skills; however, there remains no comprehensive, easy-to-use set of standards for the most critically-needed IT current job clusters as well as those anticipated in the future. This limits the ability of small and most medium institutions concerns to prepare workforce-ready IT graduates.
- While standards that have already been developed will provide a basis for this work as appropriate, much work needs to be done.

What we need from you
First, help select a group of IT thought leaders that will identify the most critical 8-10 job clusters in February 2019.

- We need to identify thought leaders (CTOs/CIOs or other technical strategists with a broad and future-focused view of IT) from companies such as yours. These individuals will help create a list of the most critical 8-10 forward-facing groups of jobs that define the IT space over the next decade.
- These thought leaders will meet via a web meeting of their choice either at **12 pm CST on February 19; 10 am CST on February 20; or 2 pm CST on February 21** to validate/update the pro forma list of the most critical job clusters identified by the NSF National Convergence Technology Center's business team and research through Burning Glass International. Three meeting times are provided to aid in scheduling.
- Meetings as well as follow-up surveys to reach consensus, are expected to take no more than a total of 3-4 hours of a thought leader's time. The first meeting will be about 2 hours.

The New IT Skill Standards will:

- Help faculty across the country to deepen and widen the pipeline of workforce-ready IT workers
- Provide, model curriculum that a broad range of training providers, especially smaller institutions, can adopt
- Assist smaller companies in writing forward-facing job descriptions.

Please register for one of the thought leaders meetings at http://bit.ly/Feb2019ITSS.

Next steps
Second, Develop Skill Standards for each job cluster – work to be driven by SMEs starting in May 2019.

- A team of about 40 Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) will meet face-to-face in 3 different locations (to minimize travel time) to develop skill standards. The meeting will use a 1-day structured process developed by our research team and based on work originally done by the US Air Force. All travel costs will be reimbursed by the grant. Virtual access to these meetings will be available as well.
- The Research team will synthesize the results from the 3 SME meetings. They will survey the SMEs to achieve consensus.
- Work on the first job cluster will begin in May 2019. Work on other clusters will be spaced at 60 to 90 day intervals thereafter.

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!