



92 TOTAL MEMBERS
REPRESENTING 74 BUSINESSES

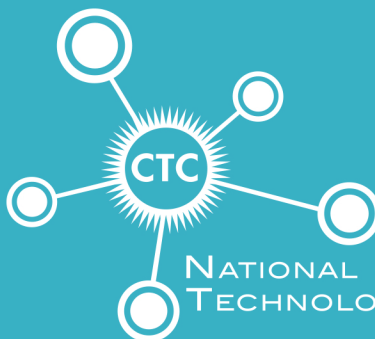
4 QUARTERLY MEETINGS A YEAR
THREE VIRTUAL AND ONE FACE TO FACE FOR A TOTAL OF 10 SESSION HOURS

AFFECTS THE CURRICULUM FOR 60 COLLEGES

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NATIONAL CONVERGENCE
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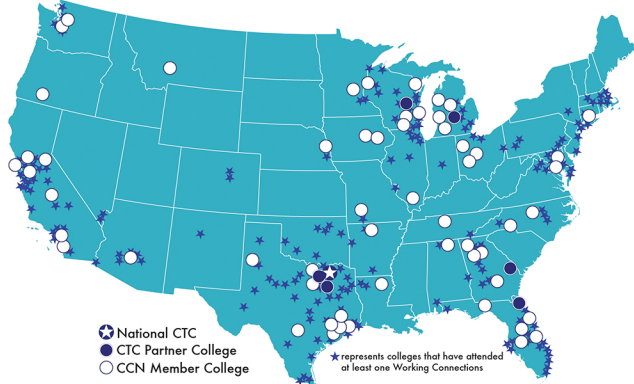
AN INSIDE
LOOK AT THE
BUSINESS
AND INDUSTRY
LEADERSHIP
TEAM



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The National CTC finds that getting business and industry to actively co-lead, rather than just advise, a program's focus and curriculum produces positive results for students. The goal is to avoid the pitfalls of traditional business advisory councils that often review curriculum just once a year and may or may not be comprised of business leaders familiar with the desired workforce skills.



BILT VIRTUAL INTERSHIPS

Experience gained from traditional internships benefits students. However, busy college students often work and cannot complete a traditional internship. And, opportunities may not be available at the time the student qualifies for such an experience. The National CTC has developed a virtual internship/externship to help overcome these obstacles. A virtual internship/externship is comprised of a team of students who design a solution to a real-world problem under the guidance of a business mentor. The mentor interfaces with the team four to five times throughout the semester via webinar. During these sessions, the business mentor helps the students and their faculty leader to design, document and implement a solution, benefiting both students and faculty. The experience culminates in a face-to-face business panel review of the students' presentation describing how they solved the business problem.



WHO IS IN THE BILT?

Members of the team include companies that are best-of-breed vendors in the technology marketplace and companies that rely on IT networking and convergence in their business operations.

In an engaged BILT, Business Leaders:

PARTICIPATE IN A FORUM TO SHARE TRENDS WITH OTHER BUSINESS LEADERS IN A NEUTRAL, NON-PROPRIETARY ENVIRONMENT

INFLUENCE THE CREATION OF A PIPELINE OF SKILLED FUTURE JOB CANDIDATES

DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLEGES PREPARING THOSE FUTURE EMPLOYEES

GENERATE GOODWILL AND POSITIVE PRESS AS THE COMPANY DEMONSTRATES ITS COMMITMENT TO WORKFORCE NEEDS

BILT MEMBERS GIVE THEIR PERSPECTIVE



MEET THE STUDENTS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BILT

The National Convergence Technology Center (CTC) developed a successful model to connect community colleges with business and industry leaders. This was born out of the idea that businesses that hire students should have a greater say in defining the knowledge, skills, and abilities they want to see in future graduates. The CTC created a group for IT Networking and Communications known as the Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT).

The National BILT meets quarterly, guiding the work of the Center as it has done for over 10 years. Three meetings are virtual. The fourth meeting, held in person, updates the knowledge, skills and abilities businesses want workforce-ready grads to have 12 to 36 months into the future. Results are shared with colleges across the nation for use with their business teams.

These business partners provide course and curriculum modification, expertise in the direction and evolution of labs, an inside look at current and future IT trends, job forecasting, as well as additional support for the CTC's Community College Network (CCN) with conference speakers and presentations, internship (including virtual internship) opportunities, and mentoring assistance.

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