

## **Summary of BATEC Information Technology Workforce Skills Study:**

Published in February 2007, two years of information review, polling local IT industry leaders and mapping and comparing results to national trends

### **Industry Wants: Workers with *more than* deep technical skills**

- Ø Workers with employability (soft skills) defined as:
  - § **Communication** (oral & written)
  - § **Work productively in team and groups** (teamwork)
  - § **Customer and business focus** (get the big picture)
  - § **Listening for meaning and comprehension**
  - § **Prioritize work and self evaluate** (self-reflection & time management)
  - § **Develop original solutions to novel problems** (problem solving)
  - § **Lead and act responsibly** (leadership and ethics)

### **Industry leaders told BATEC about the importance of soft skills:**

- Ø *"Technical skills get you the interview, soft skills get you the job."*
- Ø *"Technical employees must be able to advance to jobs that require more soft skills."*
- Ø *"We look for these (soft skills) during the interview –they're absolutely essential to success."*
- Ø *"The real world is unpredictable –soft skills are how you cope."*
- Ø *"We assume technical skills –we spend most of our interview time on the 'fit' for our organization."*
- Ø *"A person who does not fit can ruin the team..."*

### **The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Agenda demands changes in teaching & learning:**

"Economic, technological, informational, demographic and political forces have transformed the way people work and live. These changes –and the rate of change –will continue to accelerate. Schools, like businesses, communities and families, must adapt to changing conditions to thrive." (*The Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills*)

"Today's education system faces irrelevance unless we bridge the gap between how students live and how they learn." (*The Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills*)

"...students need more real-world problem solving, internships or apprenticeships in real work settings, and other more authentic experiences to make learning last and be useful" (*21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills: Learning for Life in Our Times*)