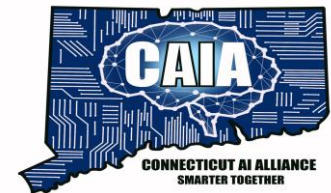

Tech Talent Accelerator 3.0 Informational Webinar

September 5, 2025



Agenda

- Welcome!
 - Webinar Purpose
 - Key Partners
 - Overview of the Tech Talent Accelerator
 - Case Studies: Impact Stories from Past TTA Grantees
 - Announcing TTA 3.0: Expanding the Opportunity
 - Looking Ahead: What to Expect for TTA 3.0
-

Purpose

Today's Tech Talent Accelerator 3.0 Informational Webinar will:

- Introduce faculty and administrators to the Tech Talent Accelerator
- Share impact stories
- Provide an early look at TTA 3.0

This session will showcase past successes, offer context, and spark early planning to prepare for the upcoming RFP!

The Business-Higher Education Forum is a national network connecting pioneering corporate and higher education leaders to identify emerging skills and **co-develop pathways that address talent gaps.**



Our mission is to build the inclusive higher education paths that align to the workforce of future

We focus on three goals critical for economic mobility & competitiveness:



Increase the number of learners/ earners completing with high-value skills, credentials aligned to employer needs



Expand access and adoption of work-integrated learning models that inclusively connect and prepare talent



Scale and implement with regional networks and leaders

Mission: The New England Board of Higher Education advances equitable postsecondary outcomes through convening, research and programs for students, institution leaders and policymakers.

Vision: Our vision is that everyone in New England will have lifelong access to affordable, high-value postsecondary education.

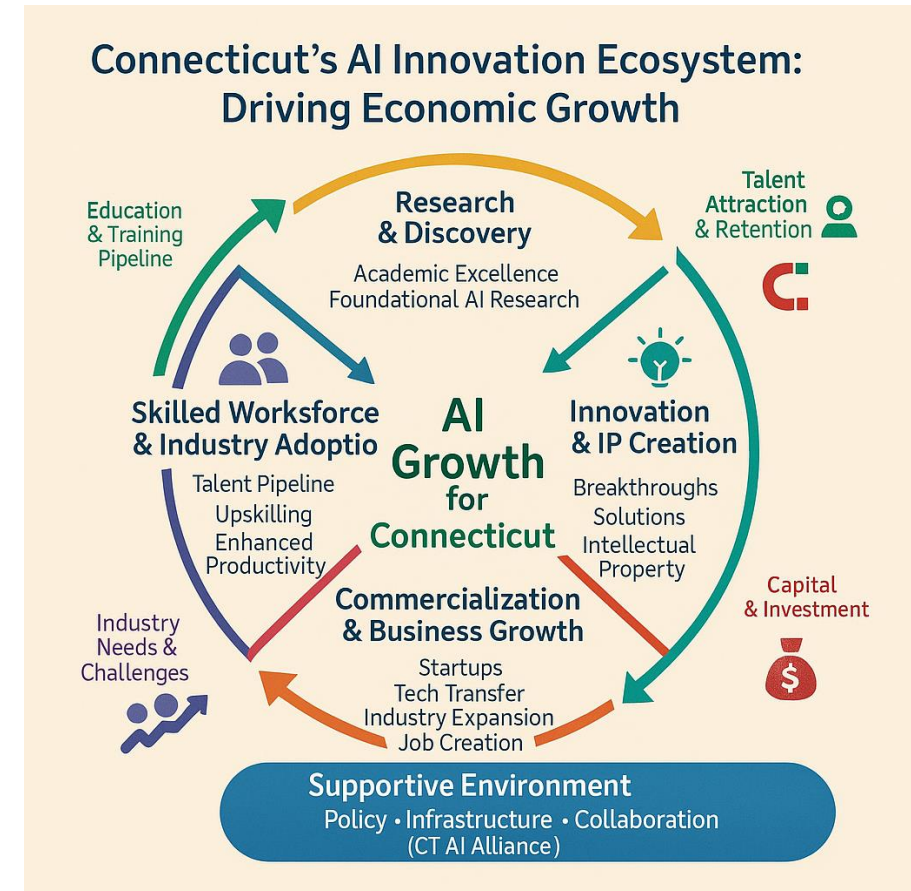
Strategic Priorities:

- **Affordability:** Advance innovative, strategic alliances to increase affordability and financial sustainability.
 - **Equity:** Expand equity-focused practices throughout postsecondary education.
 - **Alignment:** Expand connections between postsecondary education and high-demand talent needs.
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CT AI Alliance



- Launched March 2025
- 21 CT colleges and universities (public and private) + 6 trade associations/non-profits
- Seeking to collaborate on workforce development, upskilling, research, innovation, shared AI infrastructure and more.
- \$1.5 million appropriated for shared computing power.



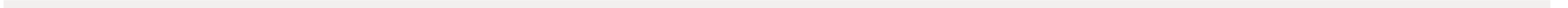
The Tech Talent Accelerator 3.0 is grateful for the support and collaboration of Connecticut's Office of Workforce Strategy.



Advisory Board Members

- **Carol Quinn-Toomey**, Managing Director, Accenture
 - **Jennifer Thornton**, SVP and Chief Programs Officer, Business-Higher Education Forum
 - **Jennifer Widness**, President, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
 - **Lesley Mara**, Associate Vice President for System Initiatives and Sponsored Programs, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System
 - **Michael Thomas**, President and CEO, New England Board of Higher Education
 - **Adis Suljemanovic**, Software Engineer, CGI and University of St. Joseph graduate
 - **Asad Anwer**, Senior Director Engineering, Pitney Bowes and University of Bridgeport graduate
 - **Dustin Nord**, Foundation Director, CBIA Foundation
 - **Jeff Auken**, Director, Department of Development Services, City of Hartford
 - **Martha LaCrosse**, Tech Business Partnership Coordinator, Capital Workforce Partners
 - **Steven Lopez**, Management Consultant, Accenture
 - **Patricia Meyer**, Director of the Good Jobs Challenge Program, Stamford Partnership
 - **Vahid Behzadan**, Assistant Professor of Data Science, University of New Haven and Co-Founder of the Connecticut AI Alliance
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Tech Talent Accelerator 1 & 2



The Tech Talent Accelerator

An accelerated solution to ensure Connecticut's workforce is competitive in a time of rapid technological change

The **Business-Higher Education Forum** and The **New England Board of Higher Education** developed and launched the Tech Talent Accelerator in 2022 with funding from the state.

TTA is designed to:

- Develop and sustain **high impact partnerships** between business and higher education;
 - Convene businesses to **identify in-demand skills, credentials, and hiring needs**;
 - **Increase the supply of tech workers** in Connecticut with in-demand skills and credentials; and
 - Provide **technical assistance to** higher education **institutions** so they can rapidly:
 - **Create new short-term training programs** that lead to good tech jobs, and
 - Enhance existing curricula with **industry-recognized credentials** and validated knowledge, skills, and abilities.
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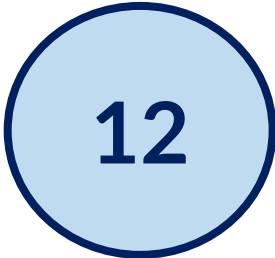
The Tech Talent Accelerator

College	Partners	Program Title and Description	TTA Round
Albertus Magnus College	Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce	Applied Data Science Certificate: Developed focused training program for skills applicable in the biopharma industry. This 3 course, 12-week program offers asynchronous training in applied data science and informatics	TTA 2.0
Charter Oak State College	Travelers	CyberReady Program: Asynchronous courses based on Google’s cybersecurity curriculum, with Credly-issued credentials and preparation for the CompTIA Security+ exam. Program completers are interviewed by Travelers for its Engineering Development Internship	TTA 2.0
Connecticut College	Accenture	Certified Information Systems Auditor Pathway: For-credit courses in accounting, computer science, data analytics, and economics, leading to the CISA credential. Accenture provides apprenticeship interviews for completers.	TTA 2.0
CSCU		Increase capacity for delivering tech training aligned to industry needs through community of practice for selected faculty members.	TTA 1.0
Fairfield University	Vancord	Cybersecurity Bootcamp: Offers industry validated skills like programming fundamentals, cloud fundamentals and cybersecurity basics. Learners earn a digital badge for completing the program.	TTA 2.0
Mitchell College	Cerberus, InscrD	Mitchell Hub: Digital Innovation & Educational Excellence: Builds professional tech skills through short-term certification programs, with 2.0 expanding to support neurodivergent learners.	TTA 1.0+2.0
Quinnipiac University	6+Industry Partners	Healthcare Cyber Risk Management Course, Intro to Ethical Hacking Pen Testing Course, Introduction to Cybersecurity Risk in Fintech: Interdisciplinary cyber training.	TTA 1.0+ 2.0
Southern Connecticut State University	Ancera	^3CLOUD: Students use Amazon’s AWS non-credit bearing cloud certifications to count as credit towards Souther’s information systems concentrations within cs bachelor’s degree.	TTA 2.0
University of Bridgeport	Cyproteck	Cybersecurity Certificate Program: Learners complete a 12-week online curriculum to earn IRCs like CompTIA Network+ and a University certificate. Industry partner Cyproteck has hired several graduates.	TTA 1.0+2.0
UConn Stamford	Synchrony	Cybersecurity Bootcamp: Independent study program, and learners work towards Google Cybersecurity certificate.	TTA 2.0
University of Hartford	Infosys	Mobile App Development: Offers mobile app development courses as part of computer science programs.	TTA 1.0+ 2.0
University of New Haven	Arsome Technology Group, Pleiadian Systems, SphereGen	Game Design and Development Concentration: Developed concentration within computer science bachelor’s program. Industry partners have hired multiple interns in full-time capacities.	TTA 1.0+ 2.0
University of Saint Joseph	CGI	Data Analytics & Business Intelligence Program: Embedded data analytics and business intelligence program into computer science and business administration degree programs. Embedded IRCS like Google Data Analytics. Multiple learners have been hired by CGI for internships.	TTA 1.0+2.0

Connecticut's Tech Talent Accelerator is a trusted model that has made a sizeable impact

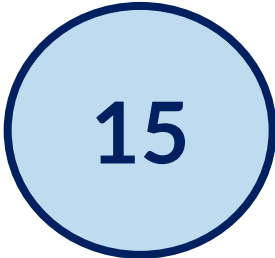
Between 2022-2024:

Higher education
institutions
participated



Industry partners
engaged

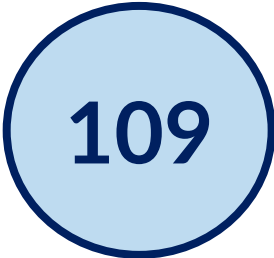
Pathways and
credentials
developed



Learners enrolled



Industry-recognized
credentials earned



Internships
facilitated

CyberReady Cyber Security Training



Charter Oak State College was awarded a Tech Talent Accelerator grant to develop four new Cyber Security courses to upskill students or employees newer to the cyber field. Leveraging additional grant funds, Charter Oak was able to offer these courses in a tuition-free, online training to 25 students. This training prepares students to earn the CompTIA Security+ Industry Recognized Credential and serves as an entry point to a cybersecurity career or a stackable credential to a degree in Cyber Security.

The **CyberReady** program prepares students in the following topics:

Fundamentals of Cyber Security, focusing on the importance of cybersecurity in today's business operations and explores the job responsibilities and skills of an entry-level cybersecurity analyst.

Operating Systems, introduces students to Linux, an operating system commonly used by cybersecurity professionals, and provides an overview of how to interact with a database using SQL.

Networks, teaches fundamental concepts of networking and network intrusion tactics and tools used to detect them.

Incident Response, focuses on how to identify and critically assess issues related to the protection of information and information systems, and how to use risk management principles to assess threats and vulnerabilities at risk in information systems.

University of New
Haven

Game Design and Development Concentration

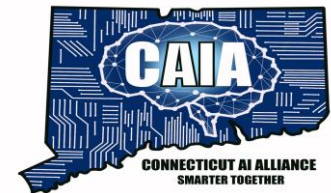
The University of New Haven helps undergraduate students gain classroom and real-world instruction in the growing field of video game design and development through its bachelor of science in computer science with a game design and development concentration.

- **Co-developed Curriculum:** University of New Haven's industry partners helped develop curriculum that embeds real-world projects from different industries into the computer science concentration in video game design and development.
- **Industry Recognized Credentials (IRC)** integration into BS in Game Design and Development curriculum.
- **Work-Integrated Learning:** Multiple students have gone on to obtain internships and gainful employment with industry partners, Arsome Technology, Pleiadian Systems, and SphereGen.





Tech Talent Accelerator 3.0



AI Focus with the following goals:

- **Reskill/Upskill the Tech Workforce for AI Competencies:** Develop short-term postsecondary programs focused on reskilling and upskilling workers AI-enabled roles in high-demand industries.
- **Align Postsecondary Training Programs with Industry AI Needs:** Embed industry-recognized credentials and validated KSAs into postsecondary pathways leading to AI-enabled roles in high-demand industries.
- **Expand Work-Integrated Learning Opportunities:** Integrate experiential learning models that meet learner and employer needs and goals, providing additional feedback loops between the classroom and workplace and strengthening the state's AI talent pipeline.
- **Create Pathways to AI Skills for Secondary Students:** Develop dual enrollment pathways and or short-term secondary programs aimed at preparing secondary students in the programming and development of AI technologies.

Every TTA program does not need to do all four things

Across the next two years, the Tech Talent Accelerator will...

CT AI Skills Model

Validate and publish in demand AI competencies:

- 1) Landscape analysis of AI skills demand across occupations and industries
- 2) AI competency maps for curriculum alignment

YEAR 1

YEAR 2

Pilot Grantees

Pilot AI-Focused Business-Higher Education Partnerships:

- 1) Small initial cohort of grantees
- 2) Accelerate and expand programs focused on building AI talent
- 3) Generate and test best practices
- 4) Embed quality WIL to strengthen talent pipelines

Innovation Grantees

Scale Innovative Partnerships and Practices:

- 1) Larger cohort of grantees
- 2) Apply AI competencies to new program development
- 3) Embed quality WIL to strengthen talent pipelines

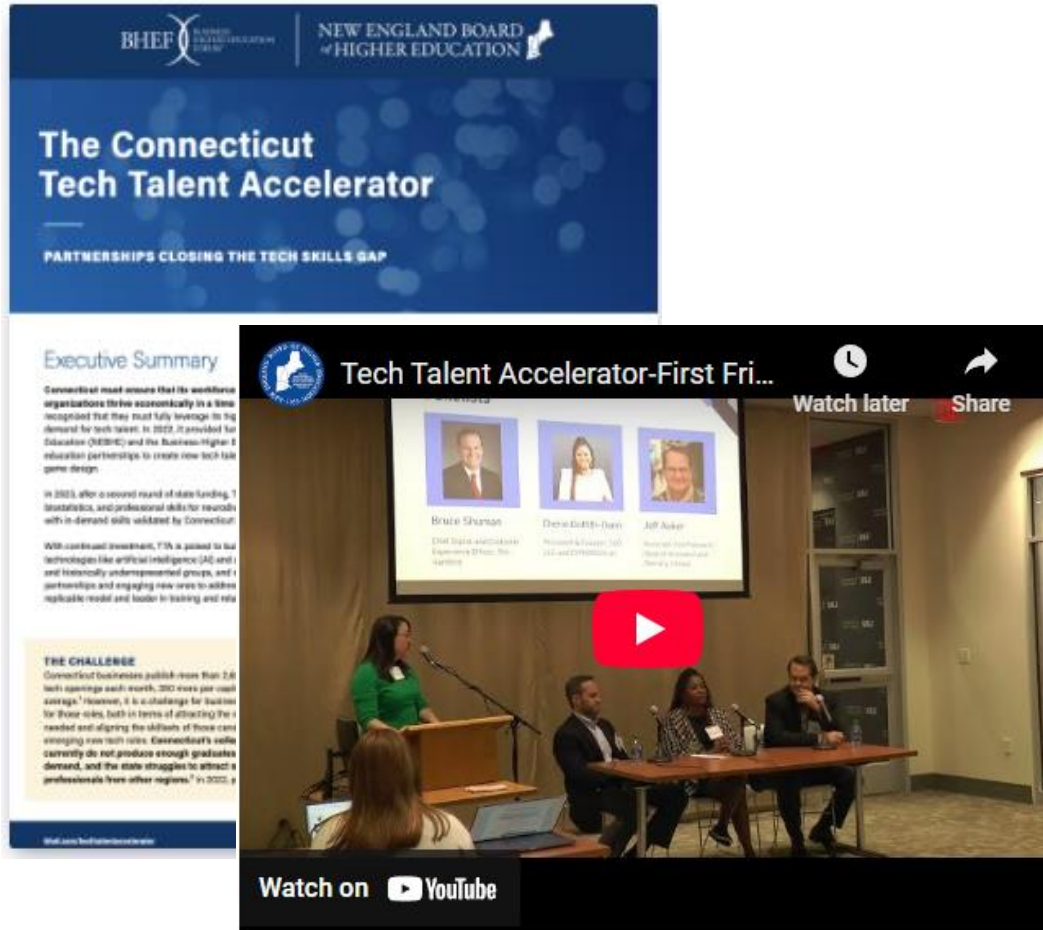
What to Expect for TTA 3.0

- ▶ **Begin Planning:** Start identifying program ideas and potential industry partners. Begin conversations with current or new partners. Determine if concept is better suited for the pilot round or the innovation round.
 - ▶ We are happy to help talk through ideas.
- ▶ **More Details Coming Soon:** Watch for communications about a formal webinar later this month covering eligibility, available funds, award criteria, RFP release and key dates, and program requirements.
- ▶ **Stay Connected:** Submit any questions through our **Question Form** or reach out to our team directly.

Tech Talent Accelerator 3.0
Question Form



Learn More About TTA



- Visit BHEF's website to explore case studies highlighting Tech Talent Accelerator 1.0 and 2.0.
- Visit NEBHE's website for examples of community of practice sessions and webinars.



Thank you!

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