
Tech Talent Accelerator 3.0 Informational Webinar

October 16 & 20, 2025



Agenda

- ▶ Welcome!
 - ▶ Key Partners
 - ▶ TTA Overview
 - ▶ Announcing TTA 3.0: Expanding the Opportunity
 - ▶ Benefits of Participating in TTA
 - ▶ Q&A
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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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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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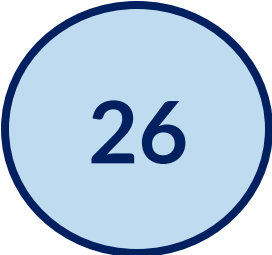
The Tech Talent Accelerator

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	A3CLOUD: 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

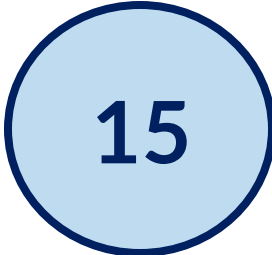
Between 2022-2024:

Higher education institutions participated



Industry partners engaged

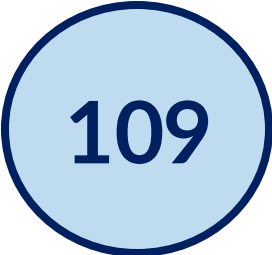
Pathways and credentials developed



Learners enrolled

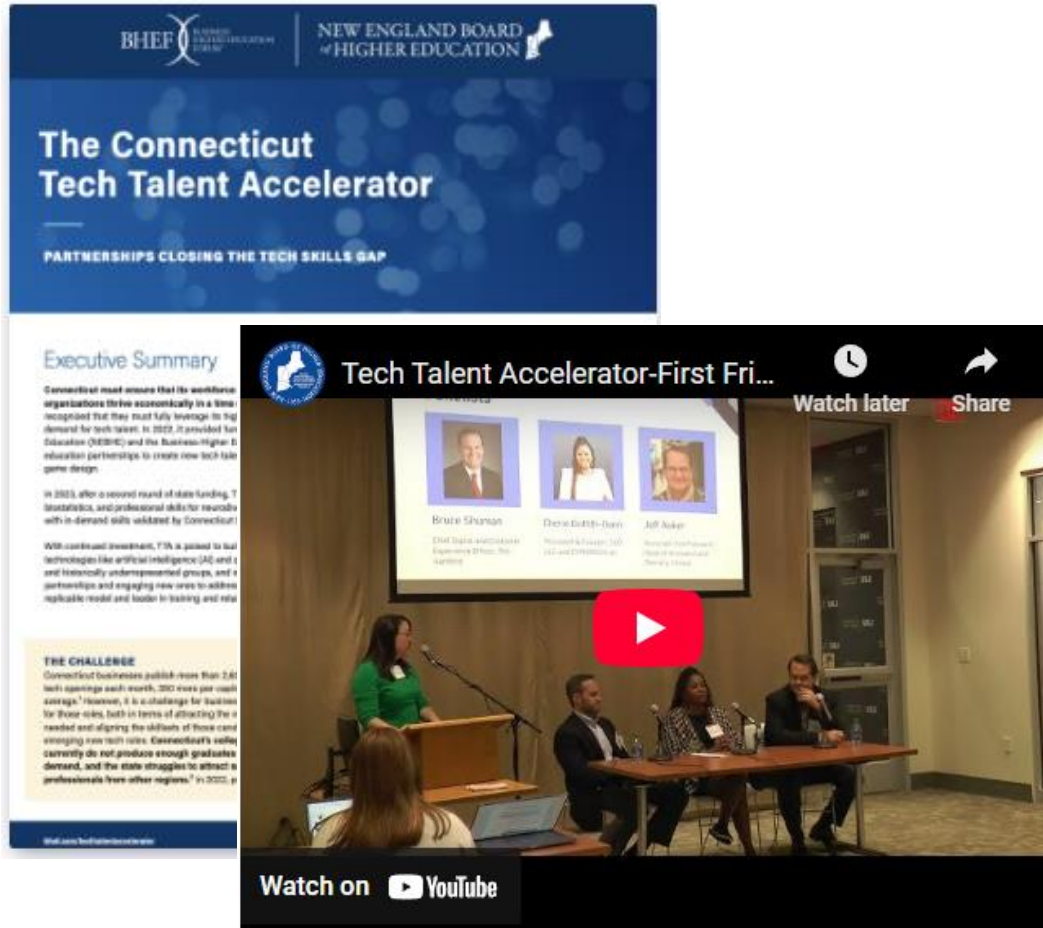


Industry-recognized credentials earned



Internships facilitated

Learn More About TTA 1.0 + 2.0



The image displays two related items. On the left is a document titled "The Connecticut Tech Talent Accelerator" with the subtitle "PARTNERSHIPS CLOSING THE TECH SKILLS GAP". It features logos for BHEF (Business-Higher Education Forum) and the New England Board of Higher Education. The document includes an "Executive Summary" section with text about workforce organizations, state funding, and the challenge of attracting and aligning talent. On the right is a video player showing a panel discussion titled "Tech Talent Accelerator-First Fri...". The video player includes a play button, a "Watch later" button, and a "Share" button. The video content shows a woman in a green top speaking at a podium, with three other people seated at a table behind her. A large red play button is overlaid on the video.

- Visit BHEF's website to explore case studies highlighting Tech Talent Accelerator 1.0 and 2.0.

bhef.com/techtalentaccelerator

- Visit NEBHE's website for examples of community of practice sessions and webinars.

<https://nebhe.org/connecticut-tta/>



Tech Talent Accelerator 3.0



11,000

Job Postings Request AI Skills in CT

2025 (Aug 2024-Aug 2025)

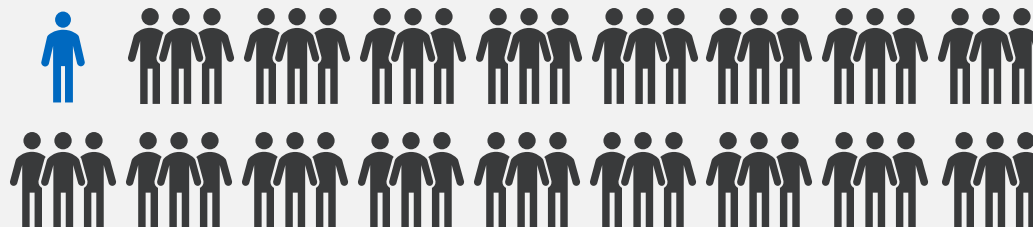
↑ 40% Increase from year prior

Today, 1 in 52 jobs in the state list AI skills requirements, up from 1 in 70 a year ago:

2025

(Aug 2024-Aug 2025)

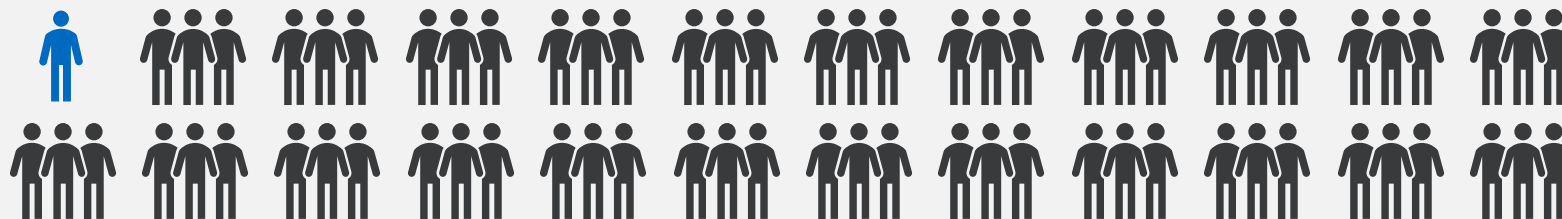
1:52 Jobs Request AI



2024

(Aug 2023-Aug 2024)

1:70 Jobs Request AI



Top 20 Occupations that Request AI Skills – By Number of AI Job Postings

Based on total AI job postings in Connecticut over past year for any occupation or industry.

Job Title	Number of AI-Job postings over past year	Percent of total occupation job postings that request AI skills
Software Developer / Engineer	1,018	18%
Artificial Intelligence Engineer	764	99%
Data Scientist	491	80%
Computer Systems Engineer / Architect	489	24%
Data Engineer	287	55%
Database Architect	287	29%
Product Manager	259	15%
Business / Management Analyst	229	8%
Data / Data Mining Analyst	198	27%
Cyber / Information Security Engineer / Analyst	182	12%
Business Development / Sales Manager	177	4%
Marketing Manager	150	12%
Analytics Manager	142	54%
Engineering Manager	140	9%
Project Manager	139	3%
IT Project / Program Manager	134	13%
Registered Nurse	130	<1%
Financial Manager	125	6%
Business Intelligence Analyst	102	11%
Operations Manager / Supervisor	96	3%

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 WBL in 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 WBL in talent pipelines

Strengthening CT's Workforce by Advancing Key Priorities

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. Expand Work-Based 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.

Note: Every TTA program does not need to do all four things. We are not awarding standalone WBL grants. Applicants are invited to submit supplemental proposals that build a WIL component onto a proposed Pilot Grant project.

Pilot Grant Projects

In the Pilot Grant phase, applicants are invited to propose projects that ***expand or update existing postsecondary programs, pathways or partnerships*** with AI skills. This may include:

- Refreshing an AI-focused program with updated curriculum or a new industry-recognized credential;
- Adding new AI competencies to a program or pathway that does not currently include them (e.g. applying AI skills in finance or healthcare); or
- Expanding an active partnership with business(es) to extract AI skills and embed them into curricula.

Ideally, projects begin enrolling learners/workers within or shortly after (1-2 months after) the grant period.

WBL Supplemental Fund

Value of WBL

- Connects classroom learning to real-world applications.
- Aligns learner skills with employer needs in Connecticut.
- Improves employability, leads to higher pay, protects against underemployment.
- Helps retain talent in Connecticut.

WBL Models

- Low-intensity: Project-based learning, micro-internships, job shadowing, challenges/hackathons
- Moderate-intensity: Employer-led capstone courses, internships
- High-intensity: Co-ops, apprenticeships

Quality Elements

- Fair compensation or expense coverage.
- Formal onboarding and trained supervision.
- Mentorship and access to support resources.
- Clear learning outcomes and skills tracking.
- Team-based projects and opportunities to present work.

Funding Priorities

- Up to **\$100,000** total available (no indirect costs).
- Priority for programs providing **50% employer wage match** or addressing barriers like transportation or technology.
- Must be submitted **with a Pilot Grant** and include a **CT employer letter of support**.

Eligibility & Available Funds

We invite Connecticut-based **2- and 4-year independent and public postsecondary institutions** to apply for TTA 3.0 Pilot Grants.

Total funds available: \$150,000 for Pilot Grants and up to \$100,000 to support institutions' supplemental WBL models. Applicants seeking supplemental WBL funding must submit the WBL Supplemental Fund application in addition to this RFP

Number of awards: Expected 5-12

Award range: \$10,000–\$30,000 per Pilot Grant project, with supplemental WBL grants made at the discretion of the TTA advisory committee.

Allowable Funds Uses

Pilot Grant Funds may support:

- Faculty/staff stipends for curriculum updates
- Implementation of courses, credentials, or certificates (including IRC fees)
- Convenings with employers/partners for planning and implementation
- Professional development for project-related faculty/staff
- Qualified consultants
- Course or program marketing
- Project staff travel
- Other planning, credential development, and implementation costs

Supplemental WBL Funds may support:

- Student compensation for WBL participation
- Experiential learning platforms (e.g., Riipen, Parker Dewey)

Additional Notes:

- Other justified program activities may be proposed
- ***Indirect costs are not allowed***

Award Criteria – Key Themes

Labor Market Alignment

- Demonstrates demand and future relevance for AI skills in CT.

Program Innovation & Impact

- Expands or strengthens existing AI initiatives.
- Defines clear, measurable outcomes.
- Enrolls learners/workers within or shortly after grant period.

Business Partnerships

- Includes CT-based employer support and engagement.
- Employer contributes expertise, hiring, or WBL opportunities.

Learner Pathways & Sustainability

- Connects to stackable credentials and degree pathways.
- Leverages other funding and shows readiness to launch.

Work-Based Learning (Supplemental Funds)

- Clear, high-quality WBL model with defined roles.
- Unique AI skills beyond classroom learning.
- Employer commitment to pay or credit-bearing and learner participation goals.

Ways to Partner with Businesses

1. Academic Engagement

- Curriculum development/feedback
- SMEs as adjunct professors
- SMEs as guest lecturers

2. Student Engagement

- Leadership reception or hosted meal with students
- Career fair participation
- Job shadowing

3. Recruiting and Hiring

- Priority or guaranteed resume review for open positions
- Priority or guaranteed interviews
- Priority hiring

Benefits of Participation: Technical Assistance

During the proposal development process and during the grant period, applicants and grantees may contact BHEF and NEBHE for assistance that includes:

- Access to regional labor market data including metrics on job openings, in-demand AI skills and hiring demand, top employers, and required credentials.
- Assistance in identifying prospective business partners and industry subject matter expert (SMEs) for partnership and proposal development.
- Access to experts in Connecticut and around the United States to better understand AI knowledge and skill requirements, in-demand industry recognized credentials, experiential learning platforms or training for faculty or learners, including:
 - BHEF Network Partners: AWS, Google, Podium, Riipen, Virtual Internships and more.
- Information on curriculum mapping tools, models, and case studies, including:
 - BHEF's AI-Enabled Professional Framework.
- Feedback on proposal concepts.

Benefits of Participation: Community of Practice

A core feature of TTA is a robust Community of Practice that meets regularly to:

- Build a strong network of innovative and responsive higher education and business partners
- Coalesce on shared challenges, co-create solutions and learn from peers
- Tap into national experts and initiatives that help advance grantees' projects and partnerships
- Deep dive into strategies and topics on high-impact business-higher education partnerships

Outcomes Data Collection

- Grantees will be required to engage in data collection activities, with the tracked metrics being provided on the next slide.
- Data collection processes will be confidential and secure and will be conducted in such a way to reduce administrative burdens on grantees.
- Grantees will receive information, instructions, and templates for data collection once funded.

Outcomes Data Collection

- Number and names of higher education institutions engaged in project design
- Number and names of business partners engaged in project design
- Number of AI skills programs developed
- Number and type of new AI credentials developed, and if those credentials stack to other credentials
- Number and type of existing AI credentials (i.e., Industry Recognized Credentials) adopted into programs
- Number and characteristics of learners (i.e., race, gender, graduate/undergraduate, adult learner status, dual enrollment status) enrolled in grantee projects
- Number and names of higher education institutions engaged in implementing grantee projects
- Number and names of business partners engaged in implementing grantee projects
- Number and type of AI credentials earned by students and by faculty
- Number of work-based learning opportunities offered by partner businesses
- Number of TTA learners who interned with, were hired by, and/or promoted by Connecticut employers.

Application Information

1. Download the RFP and applications from bhef.com/techtalentaccelerator
2. Complete application(s) -- you may provide your responses in the downloadable Word document. Please put your institution or PI's name in the file name.
3. Complete the Budget Request Form.
4. Secure at least one Letter of Support from a business partner.
5. Compile your documents and email them to techtalentaccelerator@bhef.com by **11:59pm on December 5, 2025**.

Key Dates

10/24/25 – FAQ published

12/5/25 – Proposals due

1/15/26 – Grantees selected

2/1/26 – Grant period begins

8/31/26 – Grant period ends

Q&A

Reminders

- Look out for our FAQ resource coming on 10/25
- Share our Business Partner Interest Form with companies that may want to engage in TTA 3.0
- Reach out to us with questions or for assistance at techtalentaccelerator@bhef.com
- Submit your proposals by 11:59pm on 12/5 to techtalentaccelerator@bhef.com



Thank you!

Contact us:
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