

TTA 3.0 Grantee Applicant/Grantee Partner Resource Guide

Organizations and Resources Available to TTA 3.0 Grantee Institutions

Business-Higher Education Forum | Tech Talent Accelerator

The following organizations are available as resources and potential partners for TTA 3.0 applicants and grantee institutions. Each aligns with TTA 3.0's core priorities around AI and tech skill-building, work-based learning, and Connecticut's workforce pipeline. Grantees are encouraged to reach out directly and to contact the TTA team with questions about facilitating introductions.

Section 1: Certificates, Industry-Recognized Credentials (IRCs), and BHEF Partners

BHEF partners offering no-cost or low-cost industry-recognized credentials aligned to TTA 3.0's AI and technology skills priorities.

Google (Grow with Google)

Through the Google AI for Education Accelerator, accredited nonprofit institutions receive no-cost access to Google Career Certificates (data analytics, cybersecurity, IT support, project management, and more), AI training via Google AI Essentials and Prompting Essentials, and tools including Gemini and NotebookLM. Certificates are ACE-recommended for up to 16 college credits and recognized by a network of 3,000+ employers. For TTA 3.0 grantees, this is a direct pathway to embedding employer-backed AI and tech credentials into both curricular and co-curricular programming. Learn more: grow.google/certificates-academic-institutions

Amazon Web Services (AWS)

AWS Academy provides accredited institutions with free, ready-to-teach cloud computing curriculum aligned to industry-recognized AWS certifications, along with faculty training and discounted exam vouchers. The curriculum spans foundational cloud concepts through generative AI and machine learning. AWS Educate, open to any individual, offers free self-paced cloud training and employer job board access. Together, these programs allow TTA 3.0 grantees to build cloud and AI credential pathways at minimal cost to students and institutions. Learn more: aws.amazon.com/training/awsacademy

IBM (IBM SkillsBuild)

IBM SkillsBuild is a free platform offering 1,000+ courses in AI, cybersecurity, data analytics, and cloud computing, with IBM-branded digital credentials shareable on LinkedIn. IBM SkillsBuild for Academia extends these resources to higher education through faculty training, access to IBM's watsonx platform, hands-on labs, and capstone projects that instructors can integrate into courses. With IBM's commitment to training two million people in AI skills by 2026, TTA 3.0 grantees can leverage SkillsBuild to layer AI credentials across disciplines at no cost. Learn more: skillsbuild.org

Section 2: Work-Integrated Learning / Work-Based Learning Platforms and BHEF Partners

BHEF network partners offering scalable platforms for embedding real employer projects and career experiences into higher education curricula.

Riipen

Riipen is the world's leading work-integrated learning platform, focused on closing the skills gap and eliminating underemployment. Riipen partners with higher education and workforce development partners to embed authentic employer projects directly into academic programs. Through scalable infrastructure and a global employer network, Riipen enables institutions to deliver career-connected learning across programs, years, and learner populations. To date, Riipen has supported more than 318,000 learner experiences with over 53,000 employers and 760 academic partners across nine countries. Riipen is proud to be a BHEF network partner. Learn more at riipen.com.

Podium Education

Podium Education partners with universities and industry to embed credit-bearing, work-based learning experiences into the undergraduate degree at scale. Podium works with 100+ universities, including ASU, Harvard, Georgetown, and UT Austin, and 50+ leading employers like L'Oréal, OpenAI, Wells Fargo, and Crocs. Podium's semester-long experiences deliver fully digital, for-credit learning through real employer projects, strengthening student retention, confidence, and career and AI readiness. Podium's cross-disciplinary design makes it accessible to students across majors, and its focus on measurable career outcomes aligns with TTA 3.0's accountability expectations. Podium is a BHEF network member. Learn more: podiumeducation.com

Section 3: Other Resources

Additional Connecticut-based and nationally relevant resources for grantee institutions across specific workforce, credentialing, and student placement needs.

DCI Resources, LLC

DCI Resources, LLC is a Connecticut-based IT services and training firm with over 20 years of experience in cybersecurity, cloud, and AI workforce development, cited as an "effective industry training program" in the 2020 Governor's Workforce Council Strategic Plan. An authorized Certiport and Pearson VUE Testing Center, DCI administers certification exams across AWS AI, Azure AI, CompTIA, and Cisco pathways. Instructor-led programs offer flexible virtual sessions, with hands-on AI labs covering LLM tuning, prompt engineering, MLOps, and AI governance. DCI also partners with the University of New Haven, supporting for-credit interns with cybersecurity and AI certifications. Learn more at: dciresourcesllc.com

The Connecticut Center for Nursing Workforce (CCNW)

CCNW is Connecticut's statewide hub for nursing and healthcare workforce data, professional development, and workforce strategy. In addition to annual nursing workforce data reports and a clinical placement platform, CCNW offers online education programs for nurses transitioning into faculty roles and a professional development series open to institutions statewide. For TTA 3.0 grantees with nursing or allied health programs, CCNW is a relevant partner as the field increasingly intersects with AI—reflected in CCNW's 2026 Annual Statewide Nursing Summit theme, "The AI-Driven Nursing Workforce." Learn more: ctcenterfornursingworkforce.com

Starteryou

Starteryou is a workforce and career-connected learning platform that helps K-12 schools, districts, and workforce organizations manage and scale internships, work-based learning, and early-career talent pipelines. The platform connects students with real-world opportunities through partnerships with employers ranging from startups and nonprofits to enterprise organizations, while also providing schools with

infrastructure for placement management, employer coordination, hour tracking, evaluations, and workforce readiness analytics. For more information, visit starteryou.com or contact partner@starteryou.com.