



Employer engagement is essential when your goal is ensuring programs are demand-driven and are preparing students for local and regional workforce opportunities. Whether employer partnerships result in the development of industry relevant curriculum, career development activities, work-based learning opportunities, or in-kind support for a wide range of resources, employer engagement can help ensure programs are responsive to local workforce needs while providing students valuable workplace context for both academic and technical courses along their career pathway journey. *This issue highlights resources and promising practices to support your employer engagement efforts.*

Business and Industry Leadership Teams

Business and Industry Leadership Teams (BILT) have been formed in several industries using a model initiated by the Convergence Technology Center, an NSF-ATE Center of Excellence at Collin College in Texas. In this model, the BILT defines the knowledge, skills, and abilities that business representatives want to see in future community college graduates and assists the colleges in recruitment and hiring, class presentations and keynotes at conferences, traditional internships, and virtual internship/externship experiences using business mentors. BILT teams are comprised of high-level executives and technicians, from large corporations and small companies alike, who understand the current state of the industry and what skills get students hired.

The BILT model was featured in a recent webinar titled ***Effective Approaches for Aligning Curriculum with Business Demand***. The webinar features several systematic approaches colleges in various disciplines across the country are taking to ensure workforce programs are tightly aligned to industry. The slides and archived webinar are available for [download](#), as is an [issue brief](#) on the BILT model. Watch videos from educators and industry professionals engaged in the BILT process on the National Information, Security, & Geospatial Technologies Consortium's [website](#).

Employer Engagement Tools

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, recently launched a [website](#) titled ***Tools for Building Employer-Educator Partnerships***. The site describes best practices and success stories and offers evidence-based tools that contain academic and practical solutions for building partnerships, sustaining collaborations, and creating career pathways. Other employer engagement tools worth exploring include:

- [A Resource Guide to Engaging Employers](#), Jobs for the Future
- [Thriving in Challenging Times: Connecting Education and Economic Development through Career Pathways](#), National Career Pathways Network and U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- [A Guide for Using Labor Market Data to Improve Student Success](#), Aspen Institute
- *What is a Credential?* Do you teach in a non-CTE area and wish you were better versed in the wide variety of credentials your CTE students are pursuing? Here's a concise [primer](#) from ACTE.
- [Recovery — Job Growth and Education Requirements Through 2020](#), Georgetown University's Center on Education & the Workforce

Manufacturing Courses

Clemson University's Center for Workforce Development and the CA²VES project have created the Advanced Manufacturing Production Associate curriculum, a series of courses to prepare students for the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council assessment. Both PDF and online interactive formats are available for a free trial until May 15. Learn more on the Center's [website](#).

NC Hosts Faculty Development Institute

AB Tech Community College and Western Carolina are hosting the POD Network's ***Institute for New Faculty Developers*** in Asheville, June 16-19. The institute will offer a mix of sessions, workshops and master classes around the theme "At the Table." To learn more or view the itinerary, visit the institute [website](#).