

**2014
AWARD
WINNER**

EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

**Information Technology
CAREER CLUSTER**

**Computer Information Technology
Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Shelbyville**

Serving seven counties in Middle Tennessee, **Computer Information Technology (CIT)** at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) Shelbyville Campus has a 15-year pedigree of delivering high-quality Career Technical Education (CTE). CIT's innovative work-based learning partnerships, ties to local business, community service, outstanding graduation rates and extensive connections to regional secondary institutions and universities qualified it for a **2014 Excellence in Action Award**.

Committed to providing students with the chance to receive relevant experience and certifications throughout their programs of study, **CIT offers six diplomas, eight certificates and up to nine national certifications** through Microsoft, CompTIA and Certified Wireless Network Professional.

CIT emphasizes work-based learning; half of students' 30 hours in the classroom is devoted to **hands-on learning** as tech support for the Bedford County Government, Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency (EMA). The program also provides a nationally-read technical blog and a comprehensive Learning Management System (LMS) with over 2000 resources.

Fast Facts

Students served (2013)	60
Male : Female	90 : 10
Low-income students	80%
Graduation rate	96%
Graduates completing a postsecondary degree/certification	96%
Graduates entering workforce/military	90%

Partnerships

CompTIA	Skills USA
City of Shelbyville	Microsoft
Bedford County Government	Child Development Center
Bedford County EMA	Certiport
Bedford County Fire	Nat'l Women of Infor-

"Bedford County government has benefitted immensely from the CIT program ... Our county currently employs two graduates of the program and our very first I.T. specialist was also a graduate."

*- Letter from the Hon. Eugene Ray,
Bedford County Mayor*

More on CIT: <http://tcatshelbyville.edu/>

More on CTE: <http://careertech.org>



Plotting Pathways for Success

While primarily a postsecondary program, CIT engages with secondary schools, business and non-profit partners, and universities throughout the region to ensure that they serve not only traditional postsecondary pupils, but secondary students and adult learners as well.

Dual enrollment agreements with local high schools ensure that students can begin acquiring credit before they formally sign-up through CIT while an aggressive calendar of career days and public appearances cap an extensive prospective student outreach effort. Once enrolled, students take part in monthly advising meetings and are provided with information on career options and career paths in IT. All staff — who are both IT educators and practitioners — provide guidance throughout students' studies.

CIT also has articulation agreements with local community colleges and online institutions like Western Governors University to allow current students to pursue additional credentials while studying, and to continue their education as they start their careers.

The program maintains a commitment to enrolling non-traditional students as well, recruiting non-traditional alumni — particularly female graduates — to be spokespeople for CIT and for TCAT-Shelbyville.



CIT educators (above) not only teach, they actively recruit and advise

Making CTE Work for Tennessee

Putting CTE to work for their community, CIT also maintains a robust network of community partners that promote the program's visibility to prospective students while connecting current students to potential employers.

Alongside their instructors, students confront real-life challenges throughout the course of their education, offering IT support and expert advice for local municipal services, the United Way and local businesses.

These partnerships serve a myriad of purposes, getting students work-based learning experience, allowing the school to serve its community in the process and exposing its students to potential future employers — multiple graduates have continued the ethic of public service and worked for the county government after gradua-



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