



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

HI-TEC 2019 Innovative Program Award Presented to the Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT) Model

WACO, Texas (May 24, 2019) – The HI-TEC Innovative Program Award will be presented July 24, 2019, at the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (HI-TEC) in St. Louis, Missouri. This year's recipient is the Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT) Model developed and disseminated by the National Convergence Technology Center (CTC) at Collin College in Frisco, Texas. The award honors Glenn Wintrich, chairman emeritus of the BILT; Ann Beheler, originator of the BILT model; and Matthew Glover, current chairman of the BILT.

HI-TEC (www.highimpact-tec.org) is produced by the National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education (NSF ATE) community. The HI-TEC Innovative Program Award recognizes teams of advanced technology education professionals who have designed and implemented significant innovations that have led to a positive impact in connecting students to technology education.

The BILT model invites business and industry leaders to take active, engaged roles in co-leading programs so that students learn the skills the job market actually demands. This includes a formal process in which BILT members annually vote on the job skills entry-level workers will need over the coming two years.

Ann Beheler, principal investigator (PI) of the CTC, is the primary architect of the BILT model.

The BILT approach has its roots in familiar processes like the DACUM, but Beheler has refined the process and made it her mission to disseminate it far and wide. Since the CTC was first funded in 2012, Beheler and her staff at the CTC have developed toolkits and worksheets, recorded webinars, made presentations, appeared on panels, and hosted role-playing workshops.

Looking just at the 31 conferences in fifteen states plus Washington, DC, where the BILT model has been delivered, almost 1300 people have heard about this approach. When attendees of workshops and webinars are taken into consideration, the number jumps to over 2500 nonduplicated faculty, administrators, and businesspeople who have been taught why the BILT model works and how programs can transform their advisory committees into BILTs. Many groups have adopted the BILT model as a result of Beheler's intervention. The BILT model has become something of a requirement for NSF ATE grants. NSF program officers have more than once steered to Beheler a grant applicant lacking a business engagement plan. It's a concept that is transforming NSF ATE programs nationwide.

This award represents HI-TEC's commitment to serving the NSF ATE community and recognizing programs that strive toward the same goal by increasing student success in technology programs.

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