

What is RITA?



The Rural Information Technology Alliance (RITA) is a grant funded consortium of four colleges:



The Grant

The \$18 million RITA grant is funded by the Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program.

Why the \$18 million investment?

Skilled IT professionals are necessary to the economic advancement of any community. Right now, there is a shortage of well-trained IT workers, particularly in rural areas. The purpose of the RITA Grant is to provide cutting edge IT education that trains graduates to meet the high demand.

What has RITA done?

RITA has invested heavily in expanding and creating new programs at each partner college, including the high-demand fields of Cyber Security and Mobile Application Development. In addition to creating new degree programs, RITA has enhanced existing IT programs through industry and college partnerships, as well as by investing in state-of-the-art classroom technology, including Cisco labs and virtualization servers. Grant resources have also been leveraged to build and expand testing centers at each RITA college, which provides students the opportunity to earn highly sought after industry certifications, including Cisco, Microsoft and CompTIA.

What makes an IT education at a RITA college unique?

- ◆ RITA **curriculum** at all four partner colleges has been developed in collaboration with industry.
- ◆ RITA **classrooms** have been enhanced to provide students the opportunity to work with the technology they will encounter in the field.
- ◆ RITA has developed curriculum and **pathways** that allow students to earn the certifications that will boost their career.
- ◆ RITA **instructors** have years of experience in their respective fields, and as a result of the grant, instructors have greater opportunity for the continued education that benefits students.
- ◆ RITA students have greater **access** to internship opportunities as a result of the partnerships the consortium has formed at each college.
- ◆ RITA Education and Employment **Advisors** work proactively to support every student in reaching their education and career goals.
- ◆ RITA's collective **impact** results in highly relevant IT education opportunities that prepare graduates to meet the needs of today's rapidly changing world.

RitaConsortium.org

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