

A National Center for Advanced Technological Education Established at UMass Boston



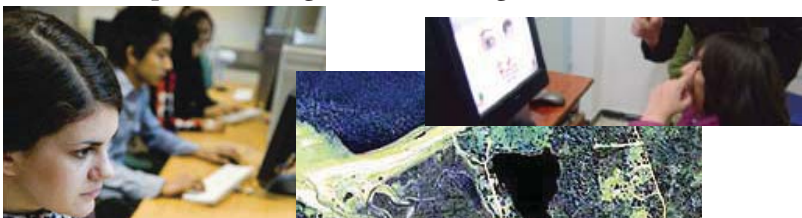
Deborah Boisvert

Over the past eight years, the Boston Area for Advanced Technological Education Connections, or BATEC, has developed a regionally coordinated system for attracting talented students from diverse demographics and backgrounds to IT careers, promoting lifelong learning of technical skills, and meeting our region's IT workforce needs.

This success is the result of a dynamic working partnership among industry leaders, IT educators, and community organizers who have a deep understanding of how to achieve the core structural reforms necessary to ensure that education programs keep pace with the rapidly evolving IT field. Now, thanks to its success and a new \$5 million grant from the National Science Foundation, BATEC, started as one of 36 regional Advanced Technological Education (ATE) centers across the nation, has now become a National Center for Broadening Advanced Technological Education Connections.

“As a national center, BATEC will extend its role as a connector, nexus, and catalyst by focusing on computing technologies and their intersections with other technology domains,” says Deborah Boisvert, BATEC's founding director. To achieve these results, BATEC has set the following goals: extend and strengthen computing discipline pathways and industry connections to produce 21st century IT professionals; adapt and advance BATEC strategies to transform IT education in urban areas; and conduct research to inform IT education and workforce development models.

Throughout these three over-arching goals, the National Center will extend BATEC's innovations by creating urban IT laboratories for connecting educators, industry advisors, government officials, and thought leaders. By using this integrated approach, they will in concert advocate, facilitate, and coordinate IT educational reform to address the spectrum of significant challenges to our nation's future.



Achieving National Prominence

- 2011** National Science Foundation awards BATEC a \$5 million grant to establish a National Center for Broadening Advanced Technological Education Connections.
- 2010** The Association for Computing Machinery's Special Interest Group for IT Education appoints Deborah Boisvert as co-leader of a 27-member Special Committee to develop an IT model curriculum for two-year colleges.
- 2008** The BATEC-led Synergy National Conference (a followup to the 2006 conference) collaborates with other ATE Centers and brings together educators to share, learn, and experience new tools and approaches for implementing 21st Century teaching and learning practices.
- 2007** BATEC produces the *IT Workforce Skills Study* that includes input from workers, hiring managers, and strategic planners across the country. Conclusion: Employability skills and contextual skills “are every bit as important as any technical skill element an employee may possess.”
- 2004** BATEC pioneers a model process for the integration of 21st Century skills throughout local IT education programs.
- 2003** National Science Foundation funds the BATEC Partnership.

