ACC | OFFICE OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Army Software Factory and Tech Accelerator

Strategic Initiative Summary

Initiative Overview

The Army Software Factory (SWF), the first of its kind in the nation, opened at Austin Community College's (ACC) Rio Grande Campus in Spring 2021. This premier partnership between the college and the Transformation and Training Command (T2COM), formerly known as the Army Futures Command (AFC), creates a high-tech training pipeline where soldiers and students work alongside global industry leaders like Google, Apple, and Dell. The initiative builds on ACC's existing Computer Science and Information Technology and Visual Communications programs by offering intensive "Tech Accelerator" tracks in software development, platform engineering, and product management.

The curriculum, developed in collaboration between ACC and T2COM leadership, is delivered by ACC faculty in a condensed 16-week, full-time schedule equivalent to 24 credit hours. By integrating technical expertise with academic rigor, the Software Factory prepares participants to rapidly solve real-world problems while providing a national model for translating military training into college credit. The purpose of this initiative is to partner with the Transformation and Training Command (T2COM) to create an advanced software development training pipeline that connects soldiers and ACC students to two- and four-year degree pathways as well as learning and employment opportunities with leading industry partners.

Expected Outcomes

1. **Accelerated Workforce Entry:** Prepare U.S. Army service members and ACC graduates to rapidly solve complex technology problems and provide leadership in team-based, high-pressure environments.
2. **Credit Articulation Excellence:** Establish a formal model for articulating non-credit, skills-based military training into credit-bearing microcredentials and degree pathways across the community college system.
3. **Industry-Aligned Curriculum:** Continuously modernize course materials in collaboration with global software firms to include emerging technologies such as Kubernetes, microservices, and artificial intelligence.

Progress To-Date

Last updated August 2026

Strategic Partnerships

- **U.S. Army Transformation and Training Command (T2COM):** Successfully established the primary operational partnership and physical training site at the Rio Grande Campus, serving as a national prototype for military-academic collaboration.
- **Marine Corps Software Factory:** Expanded the ACC Tech Accelerator model in 2023 to include partnerships with the U.S. Marine Corps.
- **Global Tech Leaders:** Maintained active engagement with companies like Google, Apple, and Dell to provide students with direct instruction, feedback, and mentorship.

Fiscal Support and Grant Awards

- **$26.3 Million Total Investment:** Inclusive of the initial pilot agreement for $8 Million over 5 years, the 2026 renewal for $16.5 Million over 10 years, and $1.8 Million in anticipated tuition payments over the renewal period.

Program Development

- **Faculty-Led Instruction:** In 2023, ACC faculty assumed full responsibility for delivering instruction across all three Tech Accelerator tracks, transitioning from a third-party vendor model to a sustainable academic framework.
- **Credit Articulation Pathways:** Formalized pathways that translate Tech Accelerator training into Associate of Applied Science (AAS) and Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degrees in Cybersecurity, Computer Programming, and Software Development.
- **Cutting-Edge Curriculum:** Integrated specialized training for advanced technologies, including Kubernetes, Microservices, and Google AppSheet.

Enrollment and Completion

- **Soldier Training Success:** Successfully trained 291 soldiers across 12 cohorts since the program's inception.
- **Intensive Learning Delivery:** Maintained a rigorous 16-week full-time schedule, providing participants with the equivalent of 24 credit hours of high-level technical training.

Community Engagement

- **Google App-a-thons:** Hosted two collaborative "App-a-thons" in early 2023, where teams of soldiers and students developed rapid technology solutions for community challenges using Google AppSheet.
- **Distinguished Visitors:** Welcomed high-level government and military officials to the Software Factory, including Congressman Lloyd Doggett and Congresswoman Robin Kelley, to showcase the regional impact of the initiative.

Initiative Team

Initiative Team Role	Name	Position	Department/Division
Strategic Lead	Garrett Groves	Vice Chancellor	Strategic Initiatives
Implementation Manager	Garrett Groves	Vice Chancellor	Strategic Initiatives
Functional Lead	Fred Lover Jennifer Houlihan	Department Chair Director, Design Workforce Training	Information Technology and Cybersecurity Visual Communication
Implementation Partner	Michelle Raymond	Director, Strategic Events	Community and Government Affairs
Executive Sponsor	Garrett Groves	Vice Chancellor	Strategic Initiatives