Cybersecurity Workforce—Bridging the Gap

beyond expectations

NSF PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Focus
Growing the cybersecurity talent pipeline in Southern Maryland to meet unprecedented local and national demand.

Project Goal
Deliver a diverse, educated, and skilled cybersecurity workforce to employers in Southern Maryland and throughout the Washington, DC region in both government and industry

YEAR 1 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Recruited a diverse student cohort majoring in cybersecurity for the NSF Project for the fall 2020 semester
- Received Cybersecurity Program approval from the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
- Consulted with cyber employers and Cybersecurity Program Advisory Council about curriculum development
- Prepared "Classroom Community" survey questions for pre- & post-survey distribution to NSF Project participants
- Held two "Night of Cybersecurity" career awareness events – one in-person and one virtual to encourage student participation in the NSF Project
- Supported Faculty Professional Development training for certifications and credentials
- Attended the 2019 NSF ATE PI Conference and the 2019 Cyber Maryland Conference

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CURRENT ACTIVITIES & PLANS FOR YEAR 2

- Established a Cybersecurity Student Club
- Distributed the pre- "Classroom Community" survey to 1st year students admitted into the NSF Project
- Distributing computers to economically disadvantaged NSF Project participants to support their program studies
- Continue to interface with the Cybersecurity Program Advisory Council community members and employers
- Preparing a spring 2020 "Night of Cybersecurity" career awareness event to recruit a 2nd student cohort for Year 3
- Standing up a "Speaker Series" of Cybersecurity professionals for students to interact and network with through Zoom
- Developing a Cyber Virtual Field Trip for NSF Project participants
- In the planning stages for a "Capture the Flag" Competition for Cyber students
- Preparing a "Boot Camp" to assist students in preparing for their CompTIA Security+ Certification Exams
- Attending Conferences to present NSF Project work-in-progress
- Continue with new course development in support of the new Information Assurance concentration
- Continue to support Faculty Professional Development in Cybersecurity

BEST PRACTICES & STRATEGIES

- Embrace your Advisory Council
- Promote your NSF Project through career awareness events
- Work with your College's Marketing Department for promotional assistance
- Collaborate with Advising and Career Services and invite them to your events to support students
- Inform your whole College about your NSF Project and activities and elicit feedback and support from a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Cybersecurity AAS Program Advisory Council
- Our Cybersecurity AAS program has been designated as a CAE- CDE 2Y - National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense 2-Year Education by the National Security Agency (NSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS)