



## NATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION STRATEGY

# TRANSFORMING CYBER IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Two-year and four-year colleges and universities serve a critical role in the development of the cyber workforce and the American economy. The National Cyber Workforce and Education Strategy calls for ecosystems of stakeholders, including community and technical colleges and universities, to work together to prepare the workforce across all industries with the cyber skills needed to securely design, build, and operate information technology (IT) and operational technology (OT) systems.

Community and technical colleges and universities should consider the actions below as a starting point for transforming higher education to achieve the goals in the Strategy.

### EXPAND YOUR LOCAL ECOSYSTEM

Host or join a reception to connect with employers, school districts, community and philanthropic organizations, and government programs in order to identify new resources in your local area, promote programs, communicate needs, and expand your network of partners.

Conduct virtual events to reach stakeholders outside your local area and update your ecosystem on your activities and resources.

Join industry and community ecosystems to diversify your recruitment efforts, and leverage cyber experts from your community to support your efforts.

### LEVERAGE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Meet with local businesses to explore opportunities for students to provide low-cost or free services to help local businesses design, build, and secure their cyber systems.

Invite employers to an open house to highlight the value of community and technical colleges to the local economy as a path to well-paying careers.

Agriculture, culinary, or healthcare programs, for example, can use the events to demonstrate cyber career opportunities in their industries.

Provide cyber curriculum development and professional development services for local school systems to improve the alignment of high school and college programs. Find content and curricula through Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (CAE-C), a program that includes over 400 colleges and universities with low-cost and no-cost cyber resources. Search online for the [“CAE Community”](#) website to learn more.

### ADD CYBER TO CAREER FAIRS

Work across disciplines to host career fairs that highlight cyber career pathways in industry sectors, such as “Cyber + Healthcare,” “Cyber + Manufacturing,” “Cyber + Education,” or “Cyber + Finance” career fairs. Use the events as an opportunity to increase collaboration between faculty and across disciplines. Open the job fairs to the public and invite small businesses to participate. Incorporate work-based learning, internships, apprenticeships, and mentoring into the design of the fairs. Connect with government agencies to include career opportunities in the Federal, state, and local governments. Search online for “cyber + SFS” for the [CyberCorps: Scholarship for Service](#) program for additional learn and earn opportunities.

While the Strategy contains lines of effort for all stakeholders, some of the key lines of effort for higher education include:

- 2.1.1 Expand and support cyber education ecosystems.
- 2.2.2 Enhance applied cyber content in interdisciplinary education programs.
- 2.2.3 Increase the availability of curricula for cyber education programs.
- 2.2.4 Increase concurrent and transferrable credit opportunities.
- 2.3.4 Increase participation in advanced degree programs to expand the cyber faculty pipeline.