CYBERSECURITY
Center *of* Excellence
WASHINGTON STATE

Hosted by
Whatcom
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

News & Updates

Nov 2024

Empowering Washington's community and technical colleges to build a resilient cybersecurity workforce for a secure future.

CompTIA Security+, How to Study and PASS

CompTIA Security+ is an industry respected certification that validates baseline skills in cybersecurity. Earning this certification along with a college degree gives graduates the edge in job placement.

A successful study strategy embraces multiple science-backed learning modalities. These include reading, listening, watching, doing, and a technique that neuroscientists call Retrieval Practice (a.k.a practice exams - lots of them!)

Click the Read More button for a winning formula to study and pass the Security+ SY0-701 exam. The article focuses on self-study options and includes links and sample prices.

Additional tools include discovering your learning style, how to employ all 5 senses in learning, using binaural beats for concentration, and scheduling a focus buddy online.

Read More

Cyber and Network Courses for Teachers, held on Saturdays!

Busy educators, do you struggle to find time for upskilling? Check out the Saturday morning classes offered by WASTC this fall and winter.

Included in the lineup are several CCNA7 courses, Network Security, Cyber Security Operations Associate, DevNet Associate, as well as CCNP Enterprise and Advanced Routing and Services.

Click the Read More button to find out the dates and apply for a stipend through the CCoE.

Contact Karen Stanton for registration: Karen.Stanton@wastc.org

Read More

Cybersecurity Career Exploration

A Toolkit and Framework for Introducing Students to Cybersecurity Career Opportunities.

November 15, 2024
9 am PST | Online

Academic advisors and educators will be shown how to confidently guide students into a cybersecurity career. The toolkit includes a guidebook and a workbook for students.

The session looks at the interdisciplinary nature of cybersecurity and how these skills are needed across so many different career types, both technical and non-technical.

Click here for more information about this event.

NCYTE CENTER

Presenters are from the Moraine Valley Community College:

Dr. John Sands
Department Chair and Professor of Information Technology.

Dr. Kristin Christensen
Program Director and Professor of Computer Information Systems.

Register

PRCCDC - Enroll Now, Compete in March!

Gain experience to boost job prospects in cybersecurity. Join the competition that gets you noticed by employers.

The term "talent scout" is usually connected with sports and athletes. But, collegiate cyber competitions are also frequented by talent scouts. Imagine, after a successful competition, a judge pulls you aside, hands you a business card, and says,

"Please send me your resume and let's set up an interview."

The 2025 Pacific Rim Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (PRCCDC) takes place Mar 21 and 22 at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia. Student enrollments are open now and close Jan 24. A qualifier event is scheduled for Feb 15. A virtual "warm-up" event happens Nov 15 and 16 to help student gauge readiness.

Organizers also seek volunteers and sponsors who will gain many personal and professional benefits from getting involved.

Click the Read More button to read about the excitement of past competitions and learn how to participate this year.

The PRCCDC games are operated by the PNW Cyber Challenge Games, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. They are currently looking for people interested in serving on the board and other committees.

Read More

Washington Science Olympiad - NEW Cyber Category

The Washington Science Olympiad (WSO) games are designed to inspire youth to pursue exciting careers in STEM fields.

Competitions resemble academic track meets where middle and high school students engage in a variety of team events. Challenges span 23 scientific categories. Students work together to build, problem-solve, and test their knowledge. Teams are ranked and judged based on performance. Top performers are invited to state championships, and then nationals.

This year, new categories are being added. High school competitors can engage in cybersecurity challenges and middle schoolers can use machine learning through game design with AI.

The WSO seeks student enrollees as well as sponsors and volunteers. Click the Read More button to learn how to get involved. Subject matter experts can volunteer to review and offer advice regarding the new categories.

The state director would love to hear from you. **Email**: statedirector@wascienceolympiad.com

Read More

Upcoming Events

November Town Hall
Operation Cyber Range - See What's New!

November 8, 2024 (online) 9am-10am PST

Join us for a guided tour of this amazing collection of FREE hands-on cybersecurity exercises. Get your own LOGIN to try some of the exercises in your classroom.

In collaboration with the CCoE, more than 40 NEW cybersecurity labs have been created that teach skills like secure coding, common attack vectors, and useful cybersecurity tools.

Vipul Kumar will show us some of the new exercises, give us a tour of the upgraded interface (v3), and help everyone apply for their own login.

Vipul is the Director of Cyber Range Poulsbo, taking the lead in developing and maintaining this amazing educational resource available to thousands of students across the state - with no subscription or registration cost. Join us this Friday for a virtual tour!

Register Here

25th Annual Digital Government Summit

Nov 14, 2024 9 am to 4 pm
Greater Tacoma Convention Center
FREE

Featuring CCoE advisory board member:
Ralph Johnson, WA State Chief Information Security Officer.

Ralph Johnson is responsible for establishing and leading the strategic direction of cybersecurity for Washington State and advising the state CIO and agency leaders on key cyber issues.

As the panel moderator, Mr. Johnson will be leading these discussions:

- Demystifying Zero Trust: Educating for Cybersecurity Culture Change
- Bits and Bytes - It's Not If, It's When: Resources for Cyber Resiliency

Other topics in this day-long event include:

- Third-Party Risk Management Essentials
- With Great Data Comes Great Responsibility
- Leading the AI Revolution: IT's New Role in Global Public Sector Innovation

The summit offers a unique opportunity for state and local government IT leaders in Washington to experience the power of collaboration and innovation. Government professionals and industry partners share ideas and insights on how technology can transform the government experience, making it more efficient, transparent, and responsive for all.

Washington educators will be excited to attend and collect industry insights to share with students - our data protectors of the future.

About

Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (CCoE)

Hosted at **Whatcom Community College** in Bellingham, WA, the CCoE serves as a state-wide hub to enable Washington state's community & technical college system to be the epicenter for cybersecurity education and connect employers with a highly skilled workforce, empowering our region to thrive securely and safely.

Photo of Syre Student Center at Whatcom Community College

coecyber.io | **Contact Us** | **Follow Us**