



CYBERSECURITY

Center of Excellence

WASHINGTON STATE

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

News & Updates

Mar 2025

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

Spotlight on Lake Washington Institute of Technology

For those seeking to launch a career in cybersecurity, Lake Washington Institute of Technology (LWTech) continues to offer a top-tier education.

A recent state grant infused \$350,000 into their information technology and cybersecurity programs. By investing this money into new equipment and software, students at LWTech continue learning the latest in virtualization, cloud computing, pen testing, hardware, networking, and more.



For quick job-readiness, students can pursue certificates in either IT Support or Network Support. For longer-range goals, students may select an **Associate of Applied Science** degree in **Computer Security and Network Technology**.

The two year transfer degree connects seamlessly with a 4-year degree from **Western Washington University**. To make the transition easy, WWU offers classes directly on the LWTech campus in Kirkland, WA, so students don't need to relocate when transferring.

For a closer look at LWTech's supportive and hands-on learning environment, please click the Read More button.

[Read More](#)

Cybersecurity Across Disciplines 2025

June 24 - 25

The CyAD (Cybersecurity Across Disciplines) Summit is a two-day conference designed to help educators integrate cybersecurity concepts into their curricula. Hosted by the National Cybersecurity Training and Education Center (NCyTE), this event offers a collaborative space where

academia and industry can exchange ideas, gain practical insights, and establish valuable partnerships.

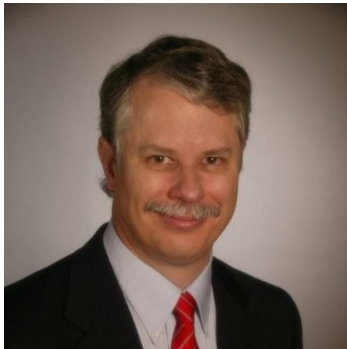
Last year's summit covered such topics as cybersecurity in automotive, maritime, aviation, healthcare, and manufacturing. Attendees learned about tools and classroom-ready curriculum. Some institutions built entirely new programs of study after being energized and informed by CyAD!



Join NCyTE at the 3rd annual event coming **June 24-25, 2025**, at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, IL. Early registrants are eligible for a travel stipend through NCyTE. Learn more and access the registration by clicking the Register button below. For questions, email NCyTE@whatcom.edu

[Register](#)

Snohomish County CISO on What Makes Great Cyber Professionals



We sat down with Snohomish County's Chief Information Officer, Doug Cavit, about the skills needed in today's cybersecurity workforce.

His seasoned perspective comes from working in the information security realm since the early days of the internet!

Besides strong technical skills, Cavit sees **critical thinking and curiosity** as essential traits in cybersecurity. Learning the tools of the trade is a first step. Additionally, you should be able to:

- Think critically about what the tools are telling you
- Know what "normal" looks like so you can spot anomalies
- Understand the inner workings of the systems you're trying to protect
- Investigate and question before accepting and trusting
- Don't stop at the first and most obvious answer; there's likely more to discover
- Be curious and apply a scientific method to your investigations

Cavit implores colleges to teach these skills by offering dedicated courses or weaving them into existing coursework. When interviewing candidates, Cavit specifically looks for innate evidence of these traits and a natural instinct for investigation. He also evaluates the reputation of the colleges they attended and considers the courses they took. It's refreshing to hear that Cavit places more weight on skills, experience, and critical thinking than he does on the type of degree earned.

To read the rest of our conversation with Doug Cavit, please click the Read More button.

[Read More](#)

Exploring Cybersecurity Careers with Advisors & Career Counselors

Teachers and advisors from all over Washington gathered to learn about cybersecurity careers.

The CCoE invited Dr. Kristin Christiansen and Dr. John Sands from the **Education Pathway National Center (EPNC)** to host two workshops covering strategies and resources for advisors to use when coaching students.

They learned:

- How to introduce students to the vast array of roles within the cyber field
- How diversity strengthens the workforce
- How to navigate different cybersecurity pathways
- How to evaluate certificates and degree options
- How life-long learning adds value and career growth



"Christine was amazing, and it was really great to hear a woman talk about cybersecurity. It's very empowering for students (aka future cyber workers) to see themselves represented in the workforce, and it can get students who maybe didn't consider cybersecurity to look into it more." Workshop Attendee.

For a summary of resources from the EPNC, click this [LINK](#).

To explore the EPNC Resources, click this [LINK](#).

If you and your team could benefit from a similar workshop, please click the **Contact Us** button and fill out your request. The Washington Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (CCoE) will be happy to speak with your faculty and advisors about how to guide students into the exciting field of cybersecurity.

[Contact Us](#)

Upcoming Events

Costco Internships Posting This Week!

The CCoE has the inside scoop about internships at Costco!

This summer, learn from seasoned IT professionals and gain hands-on experience at a globally-recognized company.



Check our Events page by March 7 for more details.

Act fast! The application window will only be open for 10 days.

[CCoE Events](#)

Educators:

See WASTC for training opportunities like Splunk

Looking for some professional development this spring? How about learning to use Splunk for searching enterprise data? This 15-hour,

virtual instructor-led course is taught by the Western Academy Support & Training Center (WASTC). Conveniently offered on Saturday mornings!



Other courses include CCNA training, Network Security, IT Fundamentals, and more.

The CCoE provides professional development funding for any course offered by WASTC!

The full WASTC instructor training schedule for 2025 - 2026 is at: <https://www.wastc.org/training>.

To register, please contact Karen Stanton at karen.stanton@wastc.org.

Request funding by clicking the Apply Now button.

[Apply Now](#)

NCW Cyber Meetups in North Central Washington

The North Central Educational Service District provides a wide array of programs, services and support to the 29 public school districts in the North Central Washington region.

Their NCW Cyber Meetups series brings together regional professionals for collaborative learning sessions on technology topics.



Educators in the Eastern WA will greatly benefit from the next two session. Both are in-person, one hour events with a live streamed speaker.

Choose from three locations: **Wenatchee, Moses Lake, or Omak.**

Upcoming Sessions:

Generative AI and Cybersecurity Wednesday, March 5, noon to 1PM

Artificial Intelligence tools are game-changers for productivity, creativity, and education. However, this power comes with risk. Educators need to be aware of the concerns surrounding privacy and information security. This session provides you with resources for awareness and protection.

Preparing for the Unthinkable Wednesday, May 7, noon to 1PM

Hear about lessons learned from the frontlines of cyber defense. Attendees will learn practical strategies for identifying and responding to cybersecurity incidents swiftly; building and testing tailored disaster recovery plans; and protecting sensitive and legally protected data during a crisis.

To learn more and register, click Read More to open the **CCoE Events** page.

[Read More](#)

NCyTE's Monthly Meeting for March

March 21 | 9:00 AM
9:00 a.m. | Virtual

Advances in Resources for Cyber Competitions

The latest in advancements in cybersecurity competitions will be discussed in this month's presentation by the National Cybersecurity Training & Education Center (NCyTE).

The topics discussed in this meeting include:

- Emerging Tools & Platforms – How AI, cyber ranges, and gamification enhance training and competition experiences.
- Industry & Academic Collaboration – The role of industry and academia in shaping competition frameworks.
- Enhanced Training & Skill Development – Advances in hands-on labs, scenario-based learning, and coaching.

Who should attend? Cybersecurity students, educators, competition organizers, industry professionals, and anyone passionate about cyber competitions and workforce development.



[Register](#)

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

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