



CYBERSECURITY

Center of Excellence

WASHINGTON STATE

Hosted by
Whatcom
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

News & Updates

Jan 2025

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

Spotlight on Bellevue College

Cybersecurity Program Chair, Evan Drake met with us to discuss exciting curriculum updates at Bellevue College (BC).

In response to popular demand from the local tech sector, BC now offers a DevSecOps course as part of their cybersecurity curriculum.



According to Microsoft, "*DevSecOps, which stands for development, security, and operations, is a framework that integrates security into all phases of the software development lifecycle.*"

BC's new course, [SEC 460](#), educates students on how cybersecurity integrates with the software development lifecycle. The class teaches how security and development teams collaborate. Application Security Testing (AST) tools are introduced and students learn to evaluate code for vulnerabilities.

Additionally, Bellevue College has been approved to use the [Public Infrastructure Security Cyber Education System \(PISCES\)](#). This training tool allows students to analyze real-world network traffic data, providing a hands-on experience that mirrors tasks performed by cybersecurity professionals. This state-of-the-art platform helps bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry demands.

Please click the Read More button for our full article on Bellevue College updates.

[Read More](#)

Make 2025 a Year of Growth and Opportunity in Cybersecurity

As the new year begins, cybersecurity students have some important things to plan. Teachers and mentors should advise students of these important tasks.

January is the best time to plot a course for success. Here



are some reasons why:

- 1) Some applications for funding require extra time to process. Resources might deplete as funds are awarded to the early birds.
- 2) Opportunities for summer internships and cyber competitions usually begin accepting applications in January.

3) To attend a conference this summer, plan now for getting time off work, gathering funds, and making travel arrangements.

Exercise your stellar skills in time management and project execution by planning your academic milestones of 2025. Whether you're just beginning a college journey or mid-way through, schedule these as soon as the New Year's confetti has been swept up.

For links to important resources, click the Read More button.

[Read More](#)

2024 - Notable Year for Cyber Crime Takedowns



Global law enforcement and cybersecurity agencies deserve praise for a landmark year of success. Innovative tools and techniques, along with unprecedented multi-national collaboration has dismantled multiple cyber crime syndicates this year.

The targeted enterprises were highly organized and engaged in a broad range of crimes. Ransomware and romance fraud seem benign when compared to the other crimes listed in this December 25, 2024

article by [infosecurity-magazine](#) online.

Some cyber gangs specialize in a single form of digital crime like Ransomware as a Service (RaaS); others diversify into child exploitation, sextortion, money laundering for crime groups, and providing encrypted communications for traffickers and assassins.

Highlights of the year include the dismantling of the world's largest bot net, [911 S5](#) when its servers were seized and its master-mind arrested. A criminal was discovered to have earned EUR 69m in cryptocurrency by renting out [infrastructure for ransomware](#) deployment. And the most prolific DDos-for-hire service, [DigitalStress](#), was taken down this year.

Classroom discussions for aspiring cyber defenders in 2025 could include:

- [Offensive strategies](#) for preventing attacks and exposing criminals.
- The [global collaboration](#) needed in cyber investigations and takedowns.
- The [Artificial Intelligence arms race](#) between criminals and defenders.
- The "[Name and Shame](#)" tactic for destroying reputations of crime leaders, disrupting their so-called businesses.

Click the Read More button for the infosecurity-magazine article "Top 10 Cyber Law Enforcement Operations of 2024." It includes many more links to informative articles about today's threat landscape and law enforcement activities.

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events

Hack the Future: Securing Tomorrow's Defenders



Join this rare opportunity for cybersecurity college students to connect with top cybersecurity leaders in the PNW region at the Microsoft campus.

Accelerate your cyber career by connecting with mentors. Enjoy free breakfast and lunch while listening to Microsoft executives share career-propelling secrets of the cyber profession. Make connections with people in the business and take home some awesome industry swag.

Space is limited so register today. The last event had a waiting list over 100 people! This is more than an event—it's a career game-changer.

Cyversity is a non profit group that helps underrepresented communities, and veterans in the cybersecurity industry through programs designed to diversify, educate and empower.

BAMSec is a division of BAM, a company-sponsored employee network dedicated to supporting the continued growth and development of black employees at Microsoft Corporation.

February 21, 2025

9:00 am to 2:30 pm

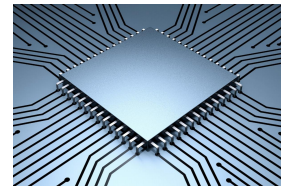
92/Nexus - Normandy Microsoft Main Campus,
15010 NE 36th St, Redmond WA 98052

[Register](#)

Cybersecurity Career Exploration Workshops for Counselors and Teachers

Need advice for the best ways to guide students in their cybersecurity career journey?

Join us in February for one of two workshops conducted by Dr. John Sands and Dr. Kristine Christensen from Moraine Valley Community College.



We'll learn:

- How to understand the cybersecurity career landscape
- Key resources and toolkits for career counselors
- How to build tailored pathway strategies for each student
- How to overcome challenges and misconceptions

Mark your calendar for a 4-hour workshop at either of these locations. Specific start times and meeting rooms will be provided after registration. To learn more about the agenda, please email Brent Lundstrom at BLundstrom@whatcom.edu.

Bellingham
February 19

Whatcom Community College

Wenatchee
February 20

North Central Educational Service District

Register for
Bellingham

Register for
Wenatchee

Cybersecurity Career Challenge

Join us on January 17th for NCyTE's monthly meeting where we'll learn about the the Virtual Cybersecurity Career Challenge. This program gives students a real-world experience that will catch the attention of employers.

NCYTE
CENTER

Virtual Cyber Career Challenge Outcomes

- Develop a project plan for an Information System that supports a fictitious business.
- Utilize project management tools for communication and project implementation.
- Operate a network of nine devices within specific technical requirements
- Defend the network against a penetration test.
- Analyze the network for evidence of attacks or compromise resulting from penetration testing.

Cyber Career Challenge Outline

- Workshop begins: Introduction to program work roles
- Introduction to the network requirements and team selection
- Network admin basics, Kanban, Gantt charts, Visio diagrams
- Teams work independently and receive guidance on network management and pentest prep
- Pentest
- Team presentations



Presentation by:

Vincent Nestler

Associate Professor
Senior Personnel, NCyTE Center

January 17
9AM - Virtual

College credit - Students have earned credits through their institution for completing the VCCC. Students should contact their program advisor to find out if the VCCC meets their institution's requirements for credit.

Register

Cybersecurity Town Hall: Teach Cyber Today!

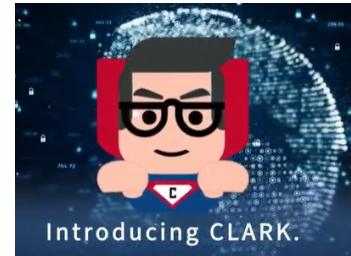
Friday, January 10 | 9:00 AM

Unlock Free Cybersecurity Curriculum from Clark Center

Clark Center offers over 1,700 free cybersecurity learning modules, ready to deploy in your classroom. These resources include learning objectives, materials, and support to enhance your curriculum. Choose from modules, units, or full courses tailored to cutting-edge topics.

Topics Include:

- AI and Machine Learning
- Blockchain
- Cloud Security
- Ethics
- Healthcare Cybersecurity
- Quantum Computing
- Ransomware
- Software Supply Chain Management



Want more flexibility? The curriculum is fully customizable under the Creative Commons 4.0 License, allowing you to adapt and modify it to meet your unique needs.

Featured Presenters:

Leah Carter and Paige Flores will highlight Clark Center's comprehensive resources and show you how to get started.

Register Today:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ub83an4>

Learn More About Clark Center:

<https://clark.center/home>

Details About the Creative Commons License:

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your teaching with cutting-edge cybersecurity resources!

[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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