



CYBERSECURITY
— Center of Excellence —
WASHINGTON STATE

Hosted by
Whatcom
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

News & Updates

May 2025

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

Spotlight on South Puget Sound Community College



From national accolades to cutting-edge curriculum and competition-ready students, South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) is showing that community colleges can lead in cyber defense education.

SPSCC's cybersecurity program holds the prestigious National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) designation, affirming its curriculum meets the highest national standards.

Hands-on training, expert instructors, and rigorous coursework prepare students for exciting, high-paying careers. A strong alumni network, built on graduate success, supports current students with job fairs, industry advice, and career opportunities.

With a solid foundation in Cisco and networking, SPSCC's cybersecurity programs feature top-tier equipment and highly skilled instructors. Flexible schedules are offered for either daytime classes, or nights and weekends. A mostly remote format allows distant students to complete coursework online and commute to campus once per week for hands-on labs.

The SPSCC Mad Hatters cybersecurity club recently celebrated impressive results at the NCAE-C Cyber Games, where their passion for Linux and teamwork led to standout performances and valuable career experience.

Click the Read More button to learn more about SPSCC's outstanding cybersecurity programs and see the beaming faces of the winning students.

**Read
More**

Cyber Launch Tool - Early Preview

Introducing the Cyber Launch Tool - your AI-

powered college matchmaker!

This dynamically updated tool helps students select a college program based on real-time job postings in Washington state. Academic advisors are invited to try it out and provide feedback.



Using a specifically trained LLM, our tool collects current job postings from multiple online sites and summarizes their job descriptions into a single dashboard. Quickly and conveniently, students can get a feel for the skills and responsibilities of such roles as Threat Investigator, Penetration Tester, Application Security Engineer, and many more - whatever has been posted online recently!

Based on the skills requested in the job postings, the tool provides tailored matches with Washington technical and community colleges that teach those skills.

Instructors in the Washington CTC community are invited to supply us with feedback on its accuracy and usability. Reach is through this link: <https://coecyber.io/contact>.

Explore Cyber
Launch

Mastering Microsoft AI: Training for Educators



The Cybersecurity Center of Excellence CCoE has partnered with a Microsoft Certified Trainer to offer free AI certification training exclusively for Washington Community and Technical College educators. This is your opportunity to earn industry recognized Microsoft AI certifications, integrate AI into your curriculum and receive free certification exam vouchers.

The Mastering Microsoft AI series prepares you to achieve the **Microsoft Azure AI Engineer Associate certification** and includes a special Microsoft Learn for Educators AI Bootcamp. You can choose one two or all three trainings but act fast. Only 15 virtual spots are available and the first session **begins this**

Saturday May 10!

Trainings include:

- 1) **AI 900** Certification Prep May 10 and May 17 (virtual) 9 a.m. to noon Pacific.
- 2) **AI 102** Certification Prep May 31 June 7 and June 14 (virtual) 9 a.m. to noon Pacific. Must complete AI 900 first or pass entrance exam if already well versed in the fundamentals
- 3) Microsoft Learn for Educators AI Bootcamp June 27 in person at Microsoft Redmond lunch included

First come, first served.

Do not miss this free opportunity to empower your students with future ready AI skills! If you have any questions, please reach out to msleaibootcamps@blackdogblackcat.com. Click the button below to register. A confirmation email will be sent within two business days of registering.

Register

Professional Development Funds - Application deadline May 23

The Cybersecurity Center of Excellence has funding for community and technical college instructors teaching or planning to teach cybersecurity in Washington state.

Apply for a stipend for such things as online certifications, in-person conferences, workshops, teacher academies, or exam fees. For example, why not attend the CyAD Summit this June and apply with the CCoE for a travel stipend?

Application deadline for this academic year is May 23.



[Apply Now](#)

Upcoming Events

CCoE Town Hall | Cybersecurity Job Trends: What Students and Educators Need to Know



May 30, 2025
10 a.m. Pacific | Virtual

Cybersecurity is rapidly evolving, and employer expectations for skills, credentials, and adaptability continue to shift. In this presentation, Will Markow will explore the latest **job market trends, emerging requirements, and hiring priorities** in the cybersecurity field.

Key topics include:

- Current hiring trends and workforce data across the state and nation
- High-demand cybersecurity roles, skills, and certifications
- The impact of emerging technologies like AI on the job market
- Strategies for aligning academic programs with industry expectations
- Career preparation tips for students entering the cybersecurity field

Audience:

- Cybersecurity and IT students
- Faculty, instructors, and academic advisors
- Program administrators and curriculum developers
- Workforce and career development professionals

[Register](#)

Faculty Development Academy: AWS Cloud Practitioner

June 2-5, 2025
8 a.m to 2 p.m. Pacific | Virtual

About the workshop:

Designed for community college educators in IT and cybersecurity, this workshop provides a robust foundation in Amazon Web



Services (AWS) to enhance teaching and curriculum development. Through hands-on labs and interactive discussions, participants will gain a solid understanding of core AWS concepts, from storage solutions to computational resources, and learn best practices for integrating cloud computing into their programs. This course empowers educators to foster innovative, collaborative learning environments that prepare students for the demands of a digital world.

[Register](#)

Faculty Development Academy: Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)



**May 19 to 22, 8AM to 2PM Pacific
Virtual | FREE**

About the workshop:

Gain the credentials that set you apart in the cybersecurity field with the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) training. This comprehensive course is designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to design, implement, and manage a world-class cybersecurity program. Offered through the NCyTE Center as part of the

(ISC)² Global Academic Program, this training provides all student materials, flashcards, and access to the CISSP CBK, ensuring a thorough preparation for the CISSP exam. By earning your CISSP, you validate your expertise and unlock access to exclusive (ISC)² resources, tools, and professional networking opportunities.

This workshop is funded and tailored specifically for community and technical college faculty members wishing to expand their knowledge, earn an industry certification, and strengthen their ability to incorporate new cybersecurity content in their community college curriculum.

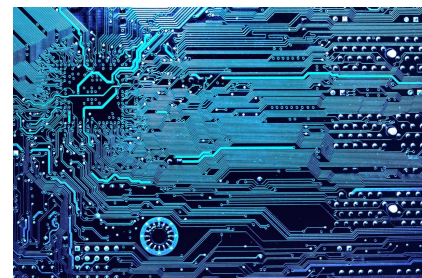
Click the Register button to learn more.

[Register](#)

NCyTE Monthly Meeting: Introducing a New Course on AI Security, Privacy & Governance

May 16, 2025 | 9 - 10 am Pacific |Virtual

Explore how a new undergraduate course prepares students for the ethical and security challenges of artificial intelligence. Margaret Leary will showcase a course she designed to equip students with important knowledge of AI, cybersecurity, privacy, and ethics. Instructors looking to enhance their curriculum and stakeholders interested in how future professionals are being trained will want to attend.



Presenter: Margaret Leary, Ph.D., CISSP, CIPP, CICP, CEH, CCSK

[Register](#)

Attend CyAD | Cybersecurity Across Disciplines



June 24-25, 2025 | Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, IL

ABOUT THE SUMMIT

The Cybersecurity Across Disciplines (CyAD) Summit is a unique event designed to serve educators in various fields to explore the intersection of cybersecurity within their specific educational program areas and the industries they serve.

This event brings together community and technical college faculty from diverse disciplines to address cybersecurity concerns in all business and all critical infrastructure sectors including but not limited to manufacturing, healthcare, retail, engineering, and banking and finance. Industry operational technology owners and operators from all critical infrastructure sectors are encouraged to attend and leverage this opportunity to engage with academia about their unique sector disciplines and cybersecurity needs.

"CyAD...where academia and industry meet for advancing cybersecurity curriculum development."

[Register](#)

Cyber.org - Online Bootcamp for Highschool Teachers

July 28 - August 1 | Virtual | FREE

This five-day professional development event is designed for educators to build their skills using a cyber range, regardless of experience level.

Explore curriculum and engage in technical labs with CYBER.org staff. Analyze case studies and participate in group discussions. Sessions run from 9 - 11 AM and 1 - 3 PM Central time in both synchronous and asynchronous sessions.



[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.

Disclaimer: The products or technologies overviewed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of or endorsements by Whatcom Community College but, rather, may reflect the opinions and experience of the author.



Photo of Syre Student Center at Whatcom Community College

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