



## News & Updates

Sept 2024

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### The NICE Challenge Project is Rebranding to XP Cyber!

The **NICE Challenge Project** has been a staple in many cybersecurity classrooms. After a decade in operation, it has become much more than a "project", so it needs a new name.

It will soon be rebranded **Experience Cyber**, or XP Cyber for short. The transformation will be gradual, between now and January 2025.

Until the end of 2024, the old NICE Challenge web portal will continue to coexist along with the new website at:

<https://range.xpcyber.com>

All users will be able to use these sites interchangeably. All user accounts, seat credits, assignments, workspaces, submissions, and available content (e.g., challenges) will be shared between them.

Have you used the NICE Challenges in your curriculum? It offers real-world scenario-based training, often used in capstone projects and competition preparation. Technical objectives and/or written deliverables are expected from each student and educators can evaluate these to gauge job-readiness.

Request a FREE account as a "curator" by using your faculty email address. Sign up for the newsletter to be alerted about new content like the "**Industrial Control Systems Environment**."



[Read More](#)

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### Six Activities for Cybersecurity Awareness Month

For 20 years now, the President of the United States and Congress have designated October as Cybersecurity Awareness month. The theme for this year is **Secure Our World**.

Get involved in this global movement by increasing cybersecurity awareness in your community and workplace. Educators, use this month as an



opportunity to get your students involved.

Some of the ideas in this article can benefit students in two ways: They will learn valuable cybersecurity skills while also gaining experience that looks great on a resume.

[Read More](#)

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## Professional Development Opportunities

### Virtual Cyber Career Challenge

Open to college students seeking to gain real-world experience in cybersecurity. A great capstone project to build CV and articulate practical experience to employers. Ten weeks long, March through May 2025.

<https://www.ncyte.net/students/virtual-cybersecurity-career-challenge>

NCYTE  
CENTER

### NCyTE Monthly Meeting - Privacy Law

- Online, Sept 20, 8 to 10AM PT
- Yogesh Ailawadi will speak on the topic of privacy in various contexts and examine how different privacy laws are structured and distinguish themselves from one another.

For registrations, see the Events Calendar at the National Cybersecurity Training & Education Center.

<https://www.ncyte.net/about-ncyte/events>

### CMMC 2.0 Workshop

- Online, Sept 12 & 13, 8AM to 3PM PT
- What cybersecurity faculty needs to know about the latest revision to the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification and the new DoD requirements.

[NCyTE Event Calendar](#)

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## Playbook to Support Students Who Are Parents

The cybersecurity workforce needs more women, especially women of color. This demographic includes innate talents that may be hard to find elsewhere.

Statistics for public college students of WA:

- 51% are non-white.
- 29% are parents.



- Out-of-pocket cost for attending public college is 2 to 5 times higher than non-parent students.
- Average GPA of student parents is higher than students with no dependants.

By supporting student parents, community and technical colleges can improve economic conditions for families and break poverty cycles. There are proven strategies to help these students overcome obstacles, enabling them to continue and graduate.

Click the Read More button to investigate a Playbook from the Aspen Institute. It describes five support pillars that bolster the success of student parents. It includes examples of institutions that have implemented these strategies and the students who have

benefited.

[Read More](#)

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## Upcoming Events

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### Cybersecurity Career Week with NIST

**Coming Oct 14-18, 2024!**

Plan now to participate in a virtual or in-person event. Better yet, pledge your multimedia contribution such as a blog, video, training course, or meetup.

Your students will benefit from workshops, challenges and videos. Click the Events List button to see the growing list of activities and offerings.

For example, check out the "[Space Grand Challenge 2024 Sandbox Series](#)." This is a game-based skill building challenge presented by the California Cybersecurity Institute at Cal Poly. Though designed for high school students, the event this October is open to all. View course curriculum here: <https://calpolycci.thinkific.com/courses/Luna-2024-space-grand-challenge-student-training>



[Events List](#)

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### About the 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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