



# CYBERSECURITY

Center of Excellence

WASHINGTON STATE

Hosted by  
**Whatcom**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## News & Updates

Dec 2024

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

### Spotlight on Columbia Basin

Instructor Tony Sako discusses key features that make their cybersecurity programs stand out:

- Designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD).
- Instructors with many years of industry experience.
- Quality capstone projects.
- Strong ties with employers for internships and jobs.
- CyberHawks club for aspiring cybersecurity professionals.
- Access to and support for participation in cybersecurity competitions.



Click the Read More button to see a list of core classes and how these prepare students for a cybersecurity career with amazing growth potential.

[Read More](#)

### Resources for Exploring Cybersecurity Careers



Because the field of cybersecurity is so diverse, it can be overwhelming to articulate the many options to new students.

Have you ever struggled to explain the 52 cybersecurity work roles as defined by the NICE Framework? Then you will enjoy the resource kit offered by the Education Pathway National Center (EPNC) designed to assist career advisors and teachers.

The kit includes exploration activities for a classroom setting or one-on-one. The exercises clarify the vast array of career trajectories within the field of cybersecurity and help students select college courses

that align with those jobs.

Students will learn that cybersecurity isn't just about technical expertise. Some roles engage a wider set of skills such as project management, planning, teaching, and documentation. The activities and resources from EPNC help you guide students towards a role in cyber that best suits each individual.

Click the Read More button for links to the EPNC kit and a video interpreting how to use it.

[Read More](#)

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## Scholarship for Service - Accepting Interns



Scholarship for Service (SFS) is a program that offers scholarships to those pursuing a cybersecurity degree. Scholarships are funded through grants awarded by the National Science Foundation. Recipients must agree to work for the U.S. Government after graduation, in a position related to cybersecurity, for a period equal to the length of the scholarship.

Students participating in SFS are now invited to apply for a paid summer internship with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Accepting applications until 1/17/25. Internships start in May 2025 and last 10 to 20 weeks.

Interns will be provided with assignments and training in cybersecurity-focused work. As skills increase, so will responsibilities. Potential full time employment may result.

Current internship opportunities are fully remote:

- Program Assistant (Cyber) Series 0303
- IT Cybersecurity Specialist (Technical Support) Series 2210

Read more about the requirements to qualify and apply here:  
<https://www.usajobs.gov/job/814786100>

To learn more about the Scholarship for Service program, click the Read More button.

[Read More](#)

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## PNNL Internships in Cybersecurity

Apply now for a paid internship next summer at Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL). Locations include Richland, Sequim, and Seattle.

PNNL is working to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time in the fields of sustainable energy and national security. Interns have worked alongside researchers on projects involving industrial control systems and Internet of Things (IoT) security.



Valuable experience will be gained through mentorship with scientists and researchers. Students will use tools and work on projects that are rare to find in the college setting. Internships often lead to full-time employment.

STEM Education Consultant, Nancy Roe, explained the Community College Internship program (CCI) at PNNL. Click the Read More button to read the highlights of our discussion and learn about the application requirements.

[Read More](#)

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## Choose Teaching as Your Cybersecurity Career



Cybersecurity teachers are needed across the nation, including Washington state. To address this need, the National Cybersecurity Training and Education Center (NCyTE) has developed the National Community College Cybersecurity Fellowship program.

**Two demographics are invited to apply:**

- 1) Final-year students and recent graduates.
- 2) Industry professionals or former military individuals with cybersecurity experience.

The program kickstarts your journey into the dynamic world of cybersecurity education by instilling the fundamentals of classroom leadership. You'll also learn curriculum development and modern tools for creating lesson plans, assessments, and lab activities related to cybersecurity.

Some workshop days are virtual; some are in person. At the end of the program, candidates are placed into community college assignments where they assist in lesson delivery for 60 hours and lead at least one session.

Fellows will seek placement into teaching assignments by the summer and fall of 2025. If you can host one of them as a teaching assistant, please reach out. Click the Read More button to learn how to become a fellow or host one in your classroom.

[Read More](#)

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## Upcoming Events

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### Learn to Use "Sticker Heist" in Cyber Ed

Sticker Heist is a self-contained portable security system protecting a locked box of stickers. The system has several common security flaws that students will learn to exploit. Upon successfully breaching the system, the box opens and the prized

stickers are collected.

Students work together as a team and think critically and creatively while learning the basics of cybersecurity. This fun educational kit is available to cybersecurity educators.

Please join the next NCyTE meeting to hear Dr. Mike, the creator of Sticker Heist, explain how it works.

**December 20, 2024**  
**9 am PST | Online**

Go to [www.stickerheist.com](http://www.stickerheist.com) to read the brilliant genesis story of Sticker Heist.

**NCyTE**  
**CENTER**

**Presenters:**

**Professor Mike Libassi, Sc.D.**  
Professor at Sinclair College, teaching cybersecurity and forensics.

**Kevin "Casey" O'Leary**  
Project manager for the NSF Grant at Sinclair Community College.

[Register](#)

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## December Town Hall NCyTE Center Cybersecurity Resources



**December 13, 2024**  
**9am-10am PST | Online**

**Join us for some hot "apple cyber"!**

Discover how the National Cybersecurity Training and Education (NCyTE) Center is shaping the future of cybersecurity training and education in the U.S. and offering resources to students and faculty at middle and high schools, community and technical colleges, and universities for advancing their cybersecurity careers and educational programs.

The NCyTE Center develops individuals for careers that secure our nation. As a National Science Foundation funded Advanced Technical Education National Center hosted at Whatcom Community College in Bellingham WA, NCyTE works with government, academia, and industry partners across the nation to advance the cybersecurity workforce.

Michelle Robinson, NCyTE Center's Senior Director and Principal Investigator, will join us on December 13 to overview the many resources available for cyber educators. Click the button below to register.

[Register](#)

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## 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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