



CYBERSECURITY

Center of Excellence

WASHINGTON STATE

Hosted by
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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

News & Updates

Apr 2025

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

Spotlight on Bates Technical College



Bates Technical College in Tacoma is poised to make a groundbreaking contribution to cybersecurity workforce training. Their new Bachelor of Applied Science in **Computer Information Security and IT Project Management** is set to launch in Fall 2025.

Modeled after the University of Washington's master's degree in Cybersecurity and Leadership, this ground breaking bachelor's program trains students to lead projects and teams in the field of cybersecurity.

Students will learn the technical and managerial aspects of:

- Incident Response and Disaster Recovery Planning
- Cloud and Container Security
- Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC)
- Emerging Technologies and Ethical AI Management

For more about this and other cybersecurity programs at Bates, click the Read More button.

[Read More](#)

Cybersecurity Career Strategies from Microsoft's Nicole Ford

We sat down with Nicole Ford, Microsoft's Vice President of the Customer Security Officer Program, for a conversation on launching and advancing cybersecurity careers.

Ford shared practical advice for students, educators, and employers alike.

In addition to technical skills, Ford stresses the need for critical thinking, communication, and business acumen.

Increasingly relevant technical skills are AI security and ethics, especially around building guardrails for large language models (LLMs), prompt engineering, and bias mitigation.

Start building your professional network right away. One highly effective method is asking for [LinkedIn "coffee chats"](#) with cyber pros. Ask for descriptions of their job role and educational path. Attend conferences and meetups, join cyber student clubs and affinity groups like the National Society of Black Engineers ([NSBE](#)) or Women in Cybersecurity ([WiCyS](#)).

"You don't get a job by not networking," says Ford.

Ford shared many more industry insights such as important technical skills for the future, her take on community college vs university, and effective ways for the cyber industry to partner with academia. For these details, click the Read More button.



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Secure AI 2025: Lessons from Google Cloud's Dr. Anton Chuvakin



As Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) pilot projects move from experiments to production, securing the data becomes mission critical. What security strategy can help businesses ensure they're not blind-sided by an overlooked weak point?

Google's Senior Staff Security Consultant in the Office of the CISO, Dr. Anton Chuvakin, spoke about this topic in February's virtual iSMG summit.

The bottom line: There is no single fix. **Securing AI is a multi-stakeholder, multi-dimensional challenge.** IT security teams must work hand-in-hand with HR, legal, cloud operations, software engineering, and data governance groups. A committee-based approach is often essential.

Securing GenAI involves using the right model for training, protecting the data, and securing the software and infrastructure. To remember the layers, Dr. Chuvakin uses the acronym MAID:

M - Model Security
A - Application Security
I - Infrastructure Security
D - Data Security

Dr. Chuvakin encourages today's cybersecurity students to **understand the risks and realities of securing GenAI**. For an in-depth exploration, see [SAIF.Google](#) (Google's Secure AI Framework). To read our full report of Dr. Chuvakin's speech at the iSMG summit, click Read More.

[Read More](#)

NEW! CCoE Exclusive Video Series - Cybersecurity Career Strategies

Co-Founder of Tiro Security, Kris Rides, presents a 3-part video series packed with tips for launching a cybersecurity career.

Your Presenter:
Kris Rides

For two decades, the Tiro team has been finding top talent for cyber roles. To be noticed and get hired, Kris recommends the following strategies. These are discussed fully in the video series he created for the CCoE.

1. Build a personal brand online
2. Grow a supportive professional network
3. Rehearse answers to the most common job interview questions in cybersecurity



Educators - Please share with your students!

Click **Watch the Videos** for Kris' step-by-step guides.

Also, join Kris **LIVE on April 11** for our Town Hall where you can ask questions about today's cybersecurity job market. Registration details below.

**Watch the
Videos**

Upcoming Events

CCoE April Town Hall Career Launching Strategies by Kris Rides

Join us for a live interview with Kris Rides of Tiro Security as he introduces this new video series created exclusively for the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence.

Tiro Security is a boutique staffing company that specializes in finding the right candidates for cybersecurity roles. Companies large and small contract with Tiro to find cyber staff, whether for one specialized role, or for a whole new department.



Come to this Town Hall prepared with your burning questions about today's cybersecurity job market.

When: Friday April 11, 9AM
Where: Live\Online

Register

Microsoft AI Training Series for Educators



SAVE THE DATE! Click Contact Us to express interest and secure a seat!

The CCoE is planning an AI training series for educators. Tentatively in May and June. Remote and in-person attendance options will be offered. Specific timing is TBD.

The training includes three main sections. Parts 1 and 2 equip learners to earn Microsoft certifications. Part 3 equips educators to deliver Microsoft training in their own classrooms.

Part 1:

Microsoft AI-900 | Azure AI Fundamentals. Exam prep. Learn AI and NLP fundamentals as they relate to Azure products.

Part 2:

Microsoft AI-102 | Azure AI Engineer Associate. Exam prep. Prerequisite: AI-900 or equivalent knowledge. Learn to build, manage, and deploy AI solutions that leverage Azure AI. Some experience with Python and C# is helpful.

Part 3:

Microsoft Learn for Educators (MSLE) | Foundational AI Bootcamp. No exam. Prerequisite: AI-102 or equivalent knowledge. Learn to deliver AI-900 and AI-102 in your own classrooms utilizing MSLE curriculum.

Click the Contact Us button to pre-register your interest. Add comments about your preferred days, schedule and timing. Direct invitations will be sent by email after plans are solidified.

**Contact
Us**

NCyTE's Monthly Meeting for April

April 18, 2025

9:00 am PST | Virtual

BRICCs - Research Data Management

The impact of the Building Research Innovation at Community Colleges (BRICCs) initiative is substantial, offering a national platform to tackle campus computing challenges. The resulting strategies and computing plans are anticipated to enhance research and education initiatives at two-year colleges, paving the way for future computing programs and a highly skilled research workforce.

Panelists:

- Tabitha Samuel, Co-Principal Investigator, National Institute for Computational Sciences
- Dhruva Chakravorty, Principal Investigator, Texas A&M University
- Dr. Sallie Kay Janes, Vice Chancellor, San Jacinto College



BRICCS Info - https://hprc.tamu.edu/briccs/briccs_rdm.html

Microsoft's AI SkillsFest

April 18 - May 28, 2025

Celebrate 50 years of Microsoft by joining an AI training session for FREE.

As part of the anniversary celebration, Microsoft is asking the world to participate in a Guinness World Record challenge. They plan to gather the most learners ever to take an online multi-level artificial intelligence lesson in 24 hours.



If you join, you'll learn AI skills AND earn a record breaker badge from Guinness World Records.

Click the Register button to shop through the sessions and select one or more.

[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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