Cybersecurity Training at Historically Black Colleges and Universities

As the daily lives of Americans rely on computer-driven and interconnected technologies, our prosperity and security depend on how we respond to the opportunities and challenges these technologies pose. With more communities using IoT devices to help monitor water and sewer, transportation and other needs, the rise of cyber-enabled economic espionage continues to grow. This has created a great demand for new cyber-related jobs. According to a US Department of Commerce and Department of Homeland Security Report to the President on Supporting the Growth and Sustainment of the Nation’s Cybersecurity Workforce, there were nearly 300,000 active openings for cybersecurity-related jobs in 2017 with an estimate of a 1.8 million workforce shortage by 2022.

In response to this crisis, Dr. Bruce Berger, executive director for the Center of Innovation and Entrepreneur Development at Clark Atlanta University is encouraging all Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to increase engagement in industry, government and education partnerships that train more cybersecurity analysts. For example, Morgan State has created the Center for Reverse Engineering and Assured Microelectronics (CREAM), a Department of Defense funded program which addresses the increasing dependence on cybersecurity for warfare. The program has grown to include 14 Ph.D. students (four women and 10 African-Americans), according to Dr. Kevin Komegay, professor and Internet of Things (IoT) Security Endowed chair at Morgan. Norfolk State now offers malware reverse engineering training that allows students to work with and study malware. According to Dr. Aurelia T. Williams, director of Cybersecurity Complex at Norfolk State, the school has also submitted a proposal for a cyber psychology program. As a result of these programs, the Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency have credentialed both Norfolk State and Morgan State as Centers of Academic Excellence in cyber defense education.

Dr. Berger, Dr. Komegay, and Dr. Williams will be sharing their expertise in training students as cybersecurity analysts in the next BroadbandUSA webinar on April 17, 2019. See details on the right and register here.
Federal Funding
- USDA: ReConnect Events Schedule
- NSF: Convergence Accelerator Pilot
- FirstNet: Public Safety Haptics Challenge

General News
- T-Mobile Begins Limited Home Internet Pilot, Laying a Foundation for Home Broadband Disruption in Advance of Merger with Sprint
- Facebook to Help Expand Broadband Internet Service in West Virginia
- The Amazing Ways John Deere Uses AI And Machine Vision To Help Feed 10 Billion People
- The Ongoing Challenges to Expand Rural Broadband
- Highlights from One Winner of Center on Rural Innovation, Rural Innovation Initiatives Grants
- Brookings Institution: Three Ways Governors are Investing in Innovation
- Brookings Institution: A Broadband Agenda for the (Eventual) Infrastructure Bill
- American Enterprise Institute (AEI): The FCC is Fixing a Rural Broadband Embarrassment, but Work Remains

Resources
- City of Seattle: Technology Access and Adoption Study
- U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA): Grants Application and Management Community

Events

NTIA Events
April 17, 2019
BroadbandUSA Practical Broadband Conversations Webinar Series: Model Programs and Practices for Building a Competitive Cybersecurity Workforce: The HBCU Story (See details in column on right.)

Events of Interest
April 1, 2019
Closing the Digital Divide 101 for Local and State Elected Officials, Charlotte, NC

April 1-3, 2019
Net Inclusion, Charlotte, NC

April 1-4, 2019

April 1-4, 2019
WTA Advocates for Rural Broadband 2019 Spring Meeting, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

April 2-3, 2019
USDA ReConnect Technical Assistance Workshop Registration, Washington, PA

April 7-13, 2019
National Library Week: "Libraries = Strong Communities," nationwide

April 8-11, 2019
Broadband Communities Summit: Fiber: Putting Your Gigs to Work, Austin, TX

April 9-10, 2019
USDA ReConnect Technical Assistance Workshop Registration, Tucson, AZ

April 12, 2019
Alabama Summit on Rural Technology, Rural Summit 2.0, Livingston, AL

April 14-16, 2019
NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association Legislative and Policy Conference, Washington, DC

April 15-17, 2019
Smart Cities Council Smart Cities Week, San Diego, CA

April 16-17, 2019
NTTA Tribal Engineering and Broadband Summit, Mescalero, NM

April 16-17, 2019
USDA ReConnect Technical Assistance Workshop Registration, Junction City, KS

April 18, 2019
Rural Digital Divide: Challenges and Solutions, The University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE

April 23, 2019
BroadbandUSA: State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN) Monthly Virtual Meeting

April 23-25, 2019
NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association Technology and Business Conference, Chicago, IL

Want to access past Practical Broadband Conversations webinars?
Visit our Webinar Archives for past presentations, transcripts and audio recordings.

NTIA’s BroadbandUSA program promotes innovation and economic growth by supporting efforts to expand broadband connectivity and digital inclusion across America. In this role, BroadbandUSA serves state and local government, industry and non-profits that want to expand broadband infrastructure and promote digital inclusion.

Contact Us
If you are interested in receiving technical assistance, please email broadbandusa@ntia.doc.gov or call 202-482-2048. For more information, visit our website at broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov.

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Policy Corner

Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council’s Broadband & Social Justice Summit

Summary of Remarks of David J. Redl Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information

Broadband Mapping: First, I’m happy to report that the Department of Commerce and NTIA are back in the mapping business. Congress last year directed NTIA to build on our previous mapping experience and the relationships we’ve made to update the national broadband availability map.

Internet Use Survey: In addition to our work on the map, we also released a series of reports last year based on our most recent survey of Americans about their computer and Internet use. One of our top-line findings from our November 2017 data collection was that we’re making progress in closing the digital divide, especially among historically disadvantaged groups.

Privacy: Ensuring that the Internet remains an engine for continued innovation and economic growth is part of NTIA’s core mission. That’s why we’re helping to develop the Administration’s policy toward consumer data privacy.

American Broadband Initiative: The Administration released a Milestones Report this past month, demonstrating the progress that we’ve made under President Trump. NTIA has committed, as part of the report, to creating a one-stop shop for federal broadband resources through our BroadbandUSA program. We’re working to make it easy for you to find exactly what you’re looking for through our BroadbandUSA website, including federal funding guides and overviews of permitting processes.

See the complete remarks here.