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Enhancing Cybersecurity

University of Dayton

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Enhancing Cybersecurity

The University of Dayton is among an alliance receiving a grant from the U.S. Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to address the nation's shortage of skilled cybersecurity employees.

"The University of Dayton is thrilled to be a partner in this important national project and have the opportunity to help enhance our region's expertise in cybersecurity. This program was extremely competitive, so being part of the team selected for NIST's work in cybersecurity is extremely gratifying for all of us contributing to the Cin-Day Cyber initiative," said Tom Skill, University of Dayton chief information officer who also chairs the Cybersecurity Consortium of Southwest Ohio and worked with the Dayton Development Coalition and the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education on the grant proposal.

The alliance, led by the Dayton Development Coalition and the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education, received $198,759 in National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education funding to advance partnerships that increase the pipeline of students pursuing cybersecurity careers, help more Americans attain the skills they need for well-paying jobs in cybersecurity and support local economic development to stimulate job growth.

"This award illustrates the power of collaboration in our region as over 20 partners contributed to the project proposal," said Sean Joseph Creighton, president of SOCHE. "In addition, the need to accelerate the growth of a highly skilled cybersecurity workforce for both government and private industry is increasingly one of our nation's most urgent and highest priorities, and we are prepared to do so with so many wonderful colleges and universities in our region."

According to NICE, cybersecurity is a major growth area for the economy. A 2015 analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data by Stanford University's Peninsula Press found more than 209,000 unfilled jobs in the United States and the number
of job postings had risen 74 percent in the previous five years.

"Southwestern Ohio has already emerged as a leader in cybersecurity, and this designation represents a tremendous opportunity to leverage the efforts of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, educational institutions and the commercial sector within the Cincinnati-Dayton Region," said Maurice McDonald, the Dayton Development Coalition’s executive vice president for aerospace and defense. "The NICE grant and regional alliance program will help ensure our region is strategically positioned to support this growing industry and build a strong foundation for cybersecurity for years to come."

**Cyber Alliance Lead Partners and Supporters**

*Higher Education*
- Air Force Institute of Technology
- Clark State Community College
- Sinclair Community College
- Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education (23 total colleges and universities)
  - University of Cincinnati
  - University of Dayton
  - Wright State University

*Economic Development*
- Dayton Development Coalition
- Regional Economic Development Initiative Cincinnati

*K-12*
- Dayton Regional STEM School
- DePaul Cristo Rey High School
- Saint Ursula Academy

*Industry*
- Cincinnati Bell
- Kroger Company
- The Greentree Group
- Lunarline, Inc.
- Morphick, Inc.
- Northrop Grumman
- Technology First
- vellaINC

*Government*
- Jobs Ohio
Representative Warren Davidson
Representative Mike Turner
Senator Sherrod Brown
Senator Rob Portman

For more information, contact Shawn Robinson, associate director of media relations, at 937-229-3391 or srobinson@udayton.edu.

NIST Grants Take Regional Approach to Solve National Cybersecurity Challenge
National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education

Briefly Speaking

Black History Month Mass, immigration, career fair, Engineering Week, LSAT workshop, Catholic art, business leadership among upcoming events.

On The Academic Minute