NCyTE insights

August 2026 Edition

Greetings NCyTE Community!

We hope everyone is enjoying the second half of summer! While faculty and students prepare to go back to the classroom, the NCyTE Center has been busy with workshops designed to help those faculty and students enter the 2026-27 academic year strong. Explore our upcoming events below!

NCyTE Featured Events

Faculty Development Academy, August 17-20: Learn More

New Member Spotlight: Get to Know the University of West Florida Center for Cybersecurity and AI!

NCyTE Monthly Meetings

- **August 21:** Breaking Down Silos with Sean Barnes

- **September 18:** Connecting Researchers and Educators to National Computing and AI Resources

Webinar for Instructors on August 21: Hands-On LLM Hardening with Docker Desktop and Security Gateways

Student Funding: Transportation Access Funding Now Available Through the Microsoft Last Mile Education Fund!

International Cybersecurity Education Collaborative: Faculty across the globe can engage in cross-continental dialogue!

NCyTE Community Links

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Faculty Development Academy: Teaching Operational Technologies for Community College Faculty

This workshop is tailored **specifically for community and technical college faculty** wanting to expand their knowledge, earn an industry certification, and strengthen their ability to incorporate new cybersecurity content in their curriculum.

August 17-20, 2026
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM PST | Virtual

The Teaching Operational Technologies Security faculty development workshop prepares educators to design, deliver, and modernize instruction in industrial cybersecurity and operational technology (OT) security. As manufacturing, utilities, transportation, healthcare, and critical infrastructure increasingly integrate information technology (IT) and operational technology environments, educators must

understand the unique security requirements associated with industrial control systems, industrial networks, and cyber-physical systems. This intensive professional development experience provides faculty with the knowledge, instructional resources, and hands-on experiences necessary to teach OT security concepts within cybersecurity, networking, engineering, manufacturing, and industrial technology programs. Participants will explore foundational OT architectures, industrial protocols, threat landscapes, safety considerations, and emerging technologies influencing modern industrial environments.

Register for Teaching Operational Technologies

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New Member Spotlight: University of West Florida Center for Cybersecurity and AI

The University of West Florida Center for Cybersecurity and AI (UWF CCAI) is a nationally recognized center focused on education, research, and partnerships at the intersection of Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Mission and Focus Areas

The mission of the UWF CCAI is to advance secure, responsible, and trustworthy digital and intelligent systems by integrating cybersecurity and AI education, research, and workforce development to achieve national and global impact. We accomplish this mission through:

Education

We design and deliver innovative, multidisciplinary education, training, and workforce development programs that integrate cybersecurity, AI, and machine learning to prepare students and professionals for an evolving, AI-enabled workforce. Our programs prepare students and professionals for high-demand

roles integrating cybersecurity and AI and integrate industry certifications and hands-on skills.

Research

We advance the state of the art in cybersecurity and AI through basic and applied research that addresses real-world challenges, enhances cybersecurity through AI and ML, strengthens the security and resilience of intelligent systems, and informs responsible AI adoption across sectors.

Partnerships

We build strategic, mutually beneficial partnerships with industry, government, academia, and global stakeholders to drive innovation, expand workforce pipelines, and support economic growth and national and international security.

Value to Industry Partners

The UWF Center for Cybersecurity and AI offers key resources for staying ahead of the rapidly changing threat landscape, including:

- **Access to Top Talent:** Direct connection to a pipeline of highly trained graduates skilled in both foundational cybersecurity principles and advanced AI applications.
- **Customized Training:** Specialized professional development courses and workshops designed to upskill learners and working professionals on emerging AI and cybersecurity workforce needs.
- **Collaborative Research:** Opportunities to partner with faculty on sponsored research projects addressing specific industry challenges related to secure AI implementation and next-generation cyber defense.
- **Thought Leadership:** World-class faculty engagement in conferences, workshops, and dialogues that shape the national and global conversation on cybersecurity and AI.

For more information and to partner, visit the UWF CCAI website or email cyberai@uwf.edu.

Want to become a Member with NCyTE? Click the button below to learn about the benefits and apply today!

Become an NCyTE Member

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NCyTE Monthly Meetings

WOLF EXECUTIVES

Breaking Down Silos

August 21, 2026 | Virtual
9 – 10am Pacific Time

Technology is advancing faster than ever, what does it mean to lead? Sean Barnes dives into the role of AI, the future of leadership in a tech-driven era, and how to rise above the noise to make your mark. This is the talk for leaders who want to stay ahead of the curve. Discussion topics include:

- Using AI to lead teams effectively and at scale.
- Exploring the future of leadership in a technology-first world.
- Navigating challenges to secure your voice at the table.
- How to lead in a way that rises above the noise of rapid technological change.

Presenters

Sean Barnes founded Wolf Executives after spending over 20 years navigating the most complex executive challenges in business. His career spans high-stakes environments: 28 acquisitions, two IPOs, and everything from startup chaos to global enterprise transformations.

Sean has built and lead teams through every type of organizational complexity, from rapid growth phases to major restructures. He understands what it takes to maintain alignment and drive results when everything around you is changing.

Sean's approach to executive coaching is grounded in practical experience navigating complexity and focused on developing the leadership skills that drive real results in today's challenging business environment.

Register for the August NCyTE Monthly Meeting

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Connecting Researchers and Educators to National Computing and AI Resources

September 18, 2026 | Virtual
9 – 10am Pacific Time

Advanced computing, artificial intelligence, and research networking resources are transforming research and education across disciplines, yet many researchers, educators, and students remain unaware of the national infrastructure available to support their work. This presentation introduces the Advanced Cyberinfrastructure Coordinator Ecosystem: Services & Support (ACCESS) program, the National AI Research Resources (NAIRR) Pilot, and the National Research Platform (NRP), highlighting opportunities to obtain computing allocations, AI resources, networking capabilities, training, and educational support. Participants will learn how to access national supported cyberinfrastructure resources, leverage advanced computational and data-intensive platforms, and take advantage of training and user support services designed to accelerate discovery and innovation. The session will provide practical guidance for educators seeking classroom

resources and researchers looking to expand the scale, impact, and accessibility of their computational and data-driven projects through nationally coordinated infrastructure and services.

Presenter

Lisa M. Perez is the Director of Advanced Computing Enablement at Texas A&M University's High Performance Research Computing (HPRC) program. She leads initiatives that help researchers, educators, and students leverage advanced cyberinfrastructure to accelerate discovery and innovation across disciplines. With extensive experience in research computing, user engagement, workforce development, and scientific collaboration, Lisa works closely with regional and national partners to expand access to high-performance computing, data-intensive computing, and artificial intelligence.

Register for the September NCyTE Monthly Meeting

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Teaching AI Security: Hands-On LLM Hardening with Docker Desktop and Security Gateways

July 20, 2026 | Virtual

10:00 – 11:00 AM Pacific Time

Integrating AI security into cybersecurity programs can be challenging due to limited budgets, IT restrictions, and unpredictable API costs. This interactive session provides instructors with a robust, repeatable framework for teaching AI hardening. In this webinar, the presenter will demonstrate how to use Docker Desktop to run local, open-source Large Language Models (LLMs) on student machines, establishing a safe, isolated sandbox. We will also show how to route and secure this local traffic through a security gateway proxy to inspect, log, and filter malicious payloads. Drawing from open-source GitHub materials and proven classroom setups, attendees will receive ready-to-use Docker configurations, step-by-step lab scenarios for vulnerabilities like prompt

injection, and effective pedagogical strategies for teaching AI defense.

Presenter

Joshua Wortz combines leadership experience with advanced cybersecurity expertise to deliver engaging, real-world instruction. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from the University of Valley Forge and is completing a Master of Science in Cybersecurity Operations and Leadership at the University of San Diego (expected 2026). Joshua specializes in the NIST Cybersecurity Framework (CSF), red/blue team operations, identity-based threats, cloud security, and open-source intelligence (OSINT) and holds the following professional certifications:

- Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) — ISC^2
- Proofpoint Certified AI Agent Security Specialist — Proofpoint
- Microsoft Certified Educator (MCE) — Microsoft
- AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner — Amazon Web Services
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals / Azure Data Fundamentals / Security, Compliance, and Identity Fundamentals

Register for Teaching AI Security

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Transportation Access Funding Now Available for Cybersecurity Community College Students!

The Transportation Access Fund provides fast, flexible financial support to help you stay on track when transportation becomes a barrier. Last Mile Education Fund, in partnership with Ford Philanthropy, Uber, and Rocket Community Fund, has created a nationwide safety net to keep students on the road to graduation.

Qualified students are eligible for funding ranging from $595 to $10,000 (based on information provided in their application) to support their educational progress and help overcome unexpected transportation-related obstacles.

Learn more, refer a student, and encourage your students to apply today!

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Last Mile Education Transportation Access Fund

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Faculty: Expand Your Global Network!

NCyTE has partnered with the UK-based organization CSE Connect to create a mechanism allowing faculty from around the world to exchange ideas and papers, research endeavors, and collaboration opportunities. Called the International Cybersecurity Education Collaborative (ICEC), it has already established useful resources that are available to you as NCyTE stakeholders.

In order to take advantage of this resource and join the collaborative, click the button below; there is no cost involved. Attending monthly Morning Coffee/Afternoon Tea webinars (MCATs) will give you a way to participate in the international dialogue and discuss priority issues in workforce and education, while the NCyTE repository will give you access to

prior reports that you will find useful to your teaching and research.

Become a Collaborator with the ICEC

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NCyTE Events Are Out of This World!

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NCyTE Online Job Board

To help job seekers and career changers, NCyTE has compiled a list of reputable websites and resources for optimizing your employment opportunity search. Your input is welcome and

appreciated. Send us an email with any feedback at ncyte@whatcom.edu with “Online Job Board” in the subject line.

Online Job Board

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Join NCyTE!

NCyTE has expanded its free membership opportunities to include Business, Government, Non-Profit, and Individual Membership. We continue to increase our academic institution membership across middle school, high school, and accredited institutions of higher education (611 institutions across 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa).

Build your professional network, access valuable resources, and benefit from an array of resources and funding. We invite professionals from across all sectors and program of study disciplines to join. Be affiliated with an NCyTE Member Institution - membership is free!

NCyTE’s Academic Institution Membership Map (July 2026)

Become a Member Today!

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NCyTE Monthly Meeting Recordings

Every month NCyTE hosts a webinar featuring subject matter experts, national and international, to speak on cybersecurity. You can access the recordings and handouts from past webinars on the NCyTE Monthly Meeting page.

2026

- July – Designing a Student Security Operation Center: One Approach to Solving the Experience Gap
- June – CAE Candidates National Center (CCNC)
- May – New Research, Case Studies, and Data-Driven Guidance for Cybersecurity Talent Optimization
- April – How ExxonMobil Developed the Cyber Business Response Process for Cyber Resilience
- March – Teaching AI Effectively: Free Resources from the National Applied AI Consortium (NAAIC)
- February – Leveraging AI in the Teaching and Learning Process
- January – CAE Cybersecurity Career Outcomes

NCyTE Monthly Meeting Recordings

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Subscribe to NCyTE's YouTube Channel

You will find many videos to choose from a variety of topics. Subscribe to catch all the latest offerings.

NCyTE YouTube Channel

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NCyTE CENTER

The National Cybersecurity Training & Education (NCyTE) Center advances cybersecurity education in the U.S. by investing in technological innovation, resources, professional development and tools to support faculty, community colleges and the workforce pipeline of tomorrow.

Whatcom COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The NCyTE Center is located at: Whatcom Community College, 237 W. Kellogg Road, Bellingham, WA 98225
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