AGENDA

Call to Order

Secretary Jim Weaver, Board Chair

Opening Remarks

Secretary Jim Weaver, Board Chair

Broadband and Federal Funding

Nate Denny, Deputy Secretary for Broadband and Digital Equity

Legislative Updates

Leigh Jackson, Legislative Affairs Director

Committee Reports

Committee Chairs

• Digital Transformation Committee
  - Progress Reports + Next Steps

• Cybersecurity/Privacy Committee
  - Cyber Education Pathways – Keith Werner and Patrick Fleming (see attachment)
  - State of Cybersecurity in NC – Rob Main

Other Business

Board Members

Adjournment

Secretary Jim Weaver, Board Chair
Cybersecurity Education Pathways Program

Executive Summary

The Cybersecurity Education Pathways Program, in partnership with the North Carolina Community College System, University of North Carolina System, and Department of Information Technology, will increase credentialed cybersecurity professionals to meet industry requirements. The Program will leverage the strengths of cybersecurity educational programs and public and private partnerships to remove barriers to meet the needs of North Carolina employers.

Background

Cybersecurity professionals are trained to protect information technology infrastructure and data systems from malicious activity. Due to the increase in cybersecurity attacks, the demand for employees with the knowledge, skill, and ability to perform cybersecurity work far outweighs supply. This demand gap presents a risk to information technology systems security, stability, and availability. This risk often manifests as a technology service disruption (ransomware - Colonial Pipeline), data breach (Personally Identifiable Information theft - Equifax), and systems degradation (denial of service attack – Google Oct. 2020) when malicious cybersecurity events occur. Public and private sector organizations are vulnerable to malicious cybersecurity events.

North Carolina understands the importance of defending information technology systems. In response to the need for skilled cybersecurity professionals, the North Carolina Information Technology Board initiated the Cybersecurity Education Pathways Program. This Program will focus on the education lifecycle to coordinate the educational services provided by the North Carolina Community College System and University of North Carolina System to meet employer’s cybersecurity needs.

Mission Statement

To recruit, educate, and graduate certified cybersecurity professionals and retain their services in North Carolina by way of continuing education, internships, apprenticeships, and full-time employment with the State’s public and private sector employers.

Strategy

Leverage North Carolina Community College System and University of North Carolina System education programs to create credentialed employees to meets industry demand.

Scope

Operationalize the Cybersecurity Education Pathways Program to deliver the functional and technical processes necessary to meet North Carolina employer needs.

Goal #1: Draft plan to cover gaps between existing cybersecurity programs and industry need
Goal #2: Identify Public and private sector partnerships
Goal #3: Develop communication plan
Goal #4: Establish state level program governance
Goal #5: Create metrics to prove outcomes
Goal #6: Transition to operations