

Cybersecurity workforce needs change more quickly than traditional occupations. To ensure that the workforce is adequately prepared for future cybersecurity challenges, it is important that traditional models for educating the workforce be expanded to better connect educational partners, industry, and government officials. From my perspective, the Regional Alliances for Multistakeholder Partnerships Program, funded by NIST and led by NICE, provides an excellent model for connecting the pieces that need to be connected to address the cybersecurity workforce puzzle. Being a part of the one of the RAMPS programs, I have seen firsthand the benefits of regional alliances between educators, business leaders, government officials, and others. In our own case, with a few months we saw important changes to our workforce development efforts that will enhance the cybersecurity workforce capacity in our region. I hope that the RAMPS program can be continued and expanded. We have developed two documents. One is an [information brochure](#) we developed as part of our regional partnership. Specifically, one of our local economic development directors partnering in our program suggested that having information about cybersecurity educational efforts in the region will help economic development directors “sell” the region to new businesses. The other is a [mid-project report](#) providing an update about program, the Hampton Roads Cybersecurity Education, Workforce, and Economic Development Alliance (HRCyber).

Brian K. Payne, PhD  
Chair, HRCyber  
Vice Provost  
Old Dominion University