NASPAA & NCAE-C Program Introductions

A deliverable of the Incorporating Cybersecurity into a Public Service Education Project Team

The Elevator Pitch

"One cannot educate every governor, senator, cabinet secretary, or public administrator on the ins and outs of cybersecurity—but one can take real steps to ensure that members of their staff have received a basic education in the topics most critical to their position."

Background

The **Incorporating Cybersecurity into a Public Service Education Project Team** was launched by the Transform Learning Working Group of the NICE Community Coordinating Council in January of 2022. The purpose of the project team was to address Objective 2.2 of the NICE Implementation Plan: "Advocate for multidisciplinary approaches that integrate cybersecurity across varied curricula that support diverse learners from a variety of backgrounds and experiences."

During the project team's first sprint it worked to connect more than 600 programs belonging to two partner organizations. This brief describes the team's partners on this task and their activity.

The Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) is an international association of more than 300 institutional member schools that award degrees in Public Policy, Public Administration, Public Affairs, Non-Profits, and closely related fields of study. Programs are accredited at the Master level and graduates of NASPAA programs are everywhere from state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to presidentially appointed and congressionally approved positions in the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Defense.

The National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (NCAE-C) program recognizes academic departments or research centers at more than 300 institutions in the United States, with designations in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD), Cyber Research (CAE- R), and Cyber Operations (CAE-CO). As part of their designation, CAE schools are also required to integrate Cybersecurity topics in additional disciplines within the school. The NCAE-C is managed by the Program Office at the National Security Agency.

Getting Involved

The project team is about to begin its second six-month sprint and is looking for cybersecurity case studies that may be published to NASPAA's publicases.org. If you want to get involved or have case studies to share, please contact the team's government co-chair at andrew.artz@nist.gov.

Situation, Task, Action, Result (STAR)

The project team's initial sprint ran from January to June of 2022. During its initial sprint the project team realized it had much it wanted to accomplish and very little time to do so. It was noted that the team was focused on macro-level issues and its small, centralized team of volunteers limited its ability to deeply explore the nuanced challenges and opportunities of incorporating cybersecurity across more than 300 NASPAA programs.

To counter its limitations the team leveraged its partnerships in academia, government, and NASPAA to seed local partnerships on campuses around the country and introduce graduate research opportunities at Carnegie Melon's Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy.

Through Stacy Drudy, Director of Innovative Teaching and Learning, and Data Center Director at NASPAA; and Karen Leuschner, Cyber Defense Program Manager at the NCAE-C, the project team developed a six-page document that both organizations agreed to share and promote with all their programs. The document introduces the organizations to one another and provides "ice breakers" for potential collaboration. Seeding local collaborations encourages "bottom-up" approaches to Objective 2.2 while the project team to continue its own "top-down" approaches.

Through project co-chair Randy Trzeciak, Program Director of the Heinz College's MS Information Security Policy & Management, Technical Director CERT Division of the Software Engineering Institute, the team introduced a graduate research project which will explore cybersecurity curriculum already taught in NASPAA programs and how it maps to existing frameworks and knowledge units

The project team is still very young, so it has not yet taken quantitative or qualitative measurements of its success, however, the team has stated that its goal is not to simply create one more elective course in cybersecurity. The project team sees touch points to cybersecurity across all facets of a program. Consider the following illustrations:

• CAE and NASPAA programs collaborating to map where aspects of foundational knowledge units (NCAE-CD KUs) are already being taught in NASPAA programs, or how current curricula maps to work roles in the NICE Framework.

• An instructor in a course on government procurement or city management responds to a discussion post asking how the CIA triad factor into students' proposals to purchase a new web service or provide open public data.

• Faculty, staff, or administrators supporting NASPAA programs are regularly invited to participate in or observe simulation style workshops based on real-world cyber events—like the workshops recently held at the American Society for Public Administration's 2022 conference.