Feedback in response to the NIST RFI regarding Cybersecurity Workforce Development.

Areas of Consideration:

**Cybersecurity education curricula and/or Training programs and courses** - academic curricula needs to be developed in partnership with industry professionals/organizations. This partnership is critical to ensure that curriculum provides the needed skills that industry requires. In the development of our Masters in Cybersecurity & Information Assurance, the following courses have been included based on industry feedback and partnerships with our Industry Advisory Board:

https://www.suu.edu/cose/csis/masters/outline.html

**Recommendations on how to support and improve the workforce in both the public and private sectors** - Just as important as partnerships between academia and industry in regards to curriculum, is the importance of the same partnership when it comes to providing internship/apprenticeship opportunities for students or early career professionals. These types of programs enable individuals to gain necessary and critical skills that contribute, directly, to the field of security, as well as boost the capabilities of an organization's security posture and team.

Independent of each other (academia, industry, and government) we can only do so much, but together there can be a synergy of efforts that can boost the cybersecurity skills within the nation to not only protect its citizens and their information, but also each of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors of our nation.

As part of this section's recommendation there are some programs in place that help facilitate and improve the workforce talent in the nation, these programs include: U.S. Cyber Challenge; CyberCompEx.org, GenCyber, and the CAE-CD/CAE-R programs. These are just some of the programs that could benefit from additional funding to improve the facilitation of talent into the cyber security workforce.

These are just a few of my thoughts in regards to improving cyber security education and increasing the pool of talented professionals in this important industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice these thoughts.

Kind Regards,

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