The National Cybersecurity Career Awareness Week, brought to you by the National Initiative for Cybersecurity (NICE), is a week-long celebration focused on increasing awareness about careers in cybersecurity and how building a national cybersecurity workforce enhances America’s security and economic prosperity. NICE brings to the forefront information of local, regional, and national interest to inspire, educate and engage citizens to pique their interest in cybersecurity careers. National Cybersecurity Career Awareness Week takes place during November’s National Career Development Month, and each day of the week-long celebration provides for an opportunity to learn about the contributions, innovations, and opportunities that can be found by choosing a career in cybersecurity.

Objectives

- Create excitement around increasing public awareness and engagement in building a strong cybersecurity workforce.
- Emphasize the demand and opportunities in the field of cybersecurity.
- Increase awareness around the multiple career options within the field of cybersecurity.
- Highlight the numerous pathways to enter the cybersecurity career field.
- Showcase programs that increase participation of women, minorities, veterans, persons with disabilities, and other underrepresented populations in the cybersecurity workforce.
- Advance the NICE Strategic Plan objective to inspire cybersecurity career awareness with students.

The 2017 events have been organized around the four prongs of the K-12 Cybersecurity Education Implementation Plan, however, we encourage all stakeholders to engage in the week-long celebration.

Weekly Events

Day 1: November 13, 2017 – Kickoff Event: Career Opportunities in Cybersecurity
Day 2: November 14, 2017 – Increasing Career Awareness of women, minorities, veterans, persons with disabilities, and other underrepresented populations in the cybersecurity workforce.
Day 4: November 16, 2017 – Infusing Cybersecurity Across the Education Portfolio
Day 5: November 17, 2017 – Identifying Academic and Career Pathways
Day 6: November 18, 2017 – Increase Career Awareness through Informal Activities
Day 1: November 13, 2017 – Kickoff Event: Career Opportunities in Cybersecurity
K12 Implementation Plan: Increase Career Awareness: Increase and Sustain Youth and Public Engagement in Cybersecurity Activities. (a) Establish a cybersecurity career awareness campaign targeting educators, students, parents, administrators, and counselors.

The Kickoff will be a day devoted to increasing public awareness and engagement about the cybersecurity workforce. Day 1 will celebrate the inaugural cybersecurity career awareness campaign targeting educators, students, parents, administrators, and counselors.

Day 2: November 14, 2017 – Increase Career Awareness of women, minorities, veterans, persons with disabilities, and other underrepresented populations in the cybersecurity workforce.
K12 Implementation Plan Aim: Increase Career Awareness: Increase and Sustain Youth and Public Engagement in Cybersecurity Activities. (c) Increase the appeal of the cybersecurity profession to a diverse audience.

Day 2 will feature activities and programs that target underrepresented groups.


To connect with this week also being National Apprenticeship Week, Day 3 will host a webinar that combines these two important events.

Day 4: November 16, 2017 – Infusing Cybersecurity Across the Education Portfolio

Day 4 will highlight local, state, regional, and national efforts that have successfully integrated cybersecurity into the formal classroom curriculum. Showcased efforts may include CSTA’s cybersecurity components within the refresh of the computer science standards, NICERC curriculum and professional development, South Carolina and Virginia’s cybersecurity standards/content, California and Georgia’s model curricula, etc. Other resources will be shared on the NICE website.

Day 5: November 17, 2017 – Identify Academic and Career Pathways
K12 Implementation Plan: Identify Academic and Career Pathways: Increase the number of youth pursuing a cybersecurity or cybersecurity related degree, certificate, or job.

Day 5 with spotlight the growing interest in Early College Programs and P-Tech.

Day 6: November 18, 2017 – Increasing Cybersecurity Career Awareness through Informal Activities
K12 Implementation Plan Aim: Increase Career Awareness: Increase and Sustain Youth and Public Engagement in Cybersecurity Activities. (b) Develop informal/co-curricular experiences (e.g., competitions, camps, clubs, boy/girl scouts, etc.) for youth that excite them about careers in cybersecurity and introduce them to the corresponding academic pathways.

Day 6 will spotlight activities that excite youth about careers in cybersecurity. A wide variety of efforts will be showcased including, but not limited to: NSA Day of Cyber, GenCyber camps, other local and state based camps, competitions, Girl/Boy Scouts, 4H, and Robotics. A tool kit and other resources is made available for use by teachers in the classroom, by guidance counselors at career fairs, and by parents to help their children plan their future. We will encourage industry and government partners to visit schools to promote cybersecurity careers.