

the
florida
high tech
corridor

March 12, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Cyber Florida, CyberWorks cybersecurity workforce development grant-funded program. As CEO of the Florida High Tech Corridor, I have seen firsthand the critical need for skilled cybersecurity professionals in our state. The initiative to bolster cybersecurity education and training is not only timely but essential for the future security and prosperity of our communities.

In today's interconnected world, cyber threats pose significant challenges to businesses, government agencies, and individuals alike. The frequency and sophistication of cyber attacks continue to rise, underscoring the urgency of developing a robust cybersecurity workforce capable of defending against these threats. By investing in programs that provide hands-on training, certifications, and career pathways in cybersecurity, we can better prepare individuals to fill the growing number of cybersecurity positions in Florida and beyond.

Furthermore, the CyberWorks workforce development grant-funded program aligns well with the state's economic development goals. As technology becomes increasingly integral to every aspect of our lives, businesses across all sectors require competent cybersecurity professionals to safeguard their assets and data. By equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in cybersecurity roles, we not only address a critical workforce shortage but also foster innovation, attract investment, and promote economic growth in Florida.

I believe that supporting this program is not just an investment in the future of cybersecurity but also an investment in the future prosperity of our state. As such, I urge you to continue to prioritize funding for this invaluable initiative. The success of this program will not only benefit the participants but will also contribute to the overall security and resilience of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to seeing the positive impact of the Florida cybersecurity workforce development grant-funded program and stand ready to offer any assistance or support needed to ensure its success.

Sincerely,



Paul Sohl, Rear Adm. USN (ret.)

CEO, Florida High Tech Corridor

3201 E. Colonial Drive, Suite A20
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Linda Olson

CEO

Tampa Bay Wave

501 E Kennedy Blvd Suite 650

Tampa, FL 33602

linda@tampabaywave.org

813-277-3171

March 13, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Cyber Florida, CyberWorks cybersecurity workforce development grant-funded program. As [Your Position] of [Your Organization], I have seen firsthand the critical need for skilled cybersecurity professionals in our state. The initiative to bolster cybersecurity education and training is not only timely but essential for the future security and prosperity of our communities.

In today's interconnected world, cyber threats pose significant challenges to businesses, government agencies, and individuals alike. The frequency and sophistication of cyber attacks continue to rise, underscoring the urgency of developing a robust cybersecurity workforce capable of defending against these threats. By investing in programs that provide hands-on training, certifications, and career pathways in cybersecurity, we can better prepare individuals to fill the growing number of cybersecurity positions in Florida and beyond.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Olson".

Linda Olson

CEO

Tampa Bay Wave



March 20, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the Cyber Works cybersecurity workforce development program aimed at veterans and underrepresented professionals. I have witnessed firsthand the pressing need for skilled cybersecurity professionals in our industry. This program not only addresses this need but also serves as a beacon of opportunity for those who have served our country and for individuals from underrepresented backgrounds.

Veterans bring a unique set of skills and experiences to the table, including discipline, problem-solving abilities, and a commitment to teamwork. Transitioning from military to civilian life can be challenging, and programs like this provide invaluable support and resources to help veterans make that transition successfully. By offering training and career opportunities in cybersecurity, we not only empower veterans to thrive in their post-military careers but also strengthen our national security by bolstering the cybersecurity workforce.

Furthermore, focusing on underrepresented professionals in cybersecurity is crucial for promoting diversity and inclusion within our industry. Diversity of thought and perspective leads to more innovative solutions and better outcomes. By actively recruiting and training individuals from underrepresented backgrounds, we not only create pathways to economic empowerment but also foster a more inclusive cybersecurity community that reflects the diversity of our society.

I commend Cyber Florida for their leadership and commitment to expanding their successful cybersecurity workforce development program. By investing in the development of veterans and underrepresented professionals in cybersecurity, we are investing in the future of our industry and our nation. As a professional in the cybersecurity field, I pledge my full support to this program and am eager to contribute in any way possible, whether through mentorship, training, or advocacy.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if there are any additional ways I can support this program. I look forward to seeing the positive impact it will undoubtedly have on the lives of veterans, underrepresented professionals, and the cybersecurity community as a whole.

Thank you for your dedication to this important cause.

Warm regards,

James Taylor
CEO
Florida Technology Council



George Lindsey III
Commissioner, District 1

Board of County Commissioners

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Fax: (863) 534-7655
GeorgeLindsey@polk-county.net

March 21, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Cyber Florida, CyberWorks cybersecurity workforce development grant-funded program. As a Polk County Commissioner, I have seen firsthand the critical need for skilled cybersecurity professionals in our state. The initiative to bolster cybersecurity education and training is not only timely but essential for the future security and prosperity of our communities.

In today's interconnected world, cyber threats pose significant challenges to businesses, government agencies, and individuals alike. The frequency and sophistication of cyber attacks continue to rise, underscoring the urgency of developing a robust cybersecurity workforce capable of defending against these threats. By investing in programs that provide hands-on training, certifications, and career pathways in cybersecurity, we can better prepare individuals to fill the growing number of cybersecurity positions in Florida and beyond.

Furthermore, the CyberWorks workforce development grant-funded program aligns perfectly with the state's economic development goals. As technology becomes increasingly integral to every aspect of our lives, businesses across all sectors require competent cybersecurity professionals to safeguard their assets and data. By equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in cybersecurity roles, we not only address a critical workforce shortage but also foster innovation, attract investment, and promote economic growth in Florida.

I believe that supporting this program is not just an investment in the future of cybersecurity but also an investment in the future prosperity of our state. As such, I urge you to continue to prioritize funding for this invaluable initiative. The success of this program will not only benefit the participants but will also contribute to the overall security and resilience of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to seeing the positive impact of the Florida cybersecurity workforce development grant-funded program and stand ready to offer any assistance or support needed to ensure its success.

Sincerely,

George Lindsey, III
County Commissioner District 1

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division to express our wholehearted support for the Florida Center for Cybersecurity and their exceptional CyberWorks Program graduates. The recent completion of the CompTIA Networking+ and CompTIA Computer Security Analyst+ certifications by these students signifies their readiness to excel in the professional realm. We are delighted to extend our keen interest in considering CyberWorks program graduates for potential employment opportunities within our organization.

At IRS-CI, we have a longstanding commitment to nurturing local talent and contributing to the growth and prosperity of our community. We hold in high regard the determination and perseverance required to successfully complete a certificate program like the one offered by CyberWorks. This accomplishment stands as a testament to their unwavering dedication, exemplary discipline, and resolute commitment to personal and professional advancement.

We continually seek individuals with exceptional talents who can align with our mission and assist us in attaining our objectives. We firmly believe that the graduates of the CyberWorks program possess the skills and experiences that would undeniably enrich our team and enhance our capabilities.

We appreciate your consideration of this letter of support and extend our best wishes to CareerSource Brevard in all their future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Adrian Tillman
Director, Cybersecurity
IRS-CI



March 11, 2023

The Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
The Capitol H-307
Washington, DC 20515

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Florida Center for Cybersecurity (also known as Cyber Florida) at the University of South Florida, I am pleased to offer my official support for the submission of the CyberWorks Community Project Funding Request for the fiscal year 2024.

Cyber Florida was established by statute to position Florida as a national leader in cybersecurity and its related workforce through education, research, and community engagement. The CyberWorks program exceeds this directive by addressing the critical cyber talent shortage plaguing our state and nation through a rapid career transition program that prepares adult learners for new careers in cybersecurity in under 20 weeks. Additionally, this no-cost program offers priority enrollment to veterans and first responders, serving those who have served the public good. The CyberWorks program has an impressive enrollment and completion record. With interest in the program steadily growing and an undeniable need for a properly trained cybersecurity workforce, additional investment is crucial to the program's continuation and expansion.

Along with Cyber Florida and the University of South Florida, the CyberWorks proposal offers a thoughtful and comprehensive plan to advance the state's interests and its cybersecurity resilience and education efforts. I am confident that Cyber Florida will successfully achieve the desired outcomes of this initiative, ultimately reinforcing the state's cybersecurity workforce and posture.

Sincerely,

Candace Williams
CEO/Founder
Cyb(H)er Ally Cybersecurity Solutions, LLC

William Mechler, Law Enforcement Officer

Tampa Police Department

3/22/2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the Cyber Works cybersecurity workforce development program aimed at veterans and underrepresented professionals. I have witnessed firsthand the pressing need for skilled cybersecurity professionals in Law Enforcement. This program not only addresses this need but also serves as a beacon of opportunity for those who have served our country and for individuals from underrepresented backgrounds.

In my last role as an Investigator assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the skill I learned in this course directly led to the successful prosecution of numerous predators targeting children. Having the understanding how Networking works as well as learning the different protocols computers use to access the internet became an invaluable set of knowledge.

One example of the direct impact this program had was a recent investigation that began with an image of CSAM being shared via an online portal. Following the digital footprints left behind by the suspect a search warrant was obtained for the suspect's residence, thousands of images and other pieces of evidence were located. Evidence was also located in which the suspect recorded himself committing heinous acts against a child. This ended with the suspect entering a guilty plea and being sentenced to life in federal prison. I truly believe this offender would still be targeting future victims if it had not been for this program.

While I only spoke on the behalf of law enforcement it is just as important to recognize the needs of the nation. Veterans bring a unique set of skills and experiences to the table, including discipline, problem-solving abilities, and a commitment to teamwork. Transitioning from military to civilian life can be challenging, and programs like this provide invaluable support and resources to help veterans make that transition successfully. By offering training and career opportunities in

cybersecurity, the program not only empowers veterans to thrive in their post-military careers but also strengthens our national security by bolstering the cybersecurity workforce.

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Please do not hesitate to reach out if there are any additional ways I can support this program. I look forward to seeing the positive impact it will undoubtedly have on the lives of veterans, underrepresented professionals, and the cybersecurity community as a whole.

Thank you for your dedication to this important cause.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Mechler', written in a cursive style.

William Mechler

411 N Franklin St.
Tampa, Florida 33602