



March 29, 2023

House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
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 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, I believe that the CyberWorks proposal offers a thoughtful and comprehensive plan to advance the interests of the state and its cybersecurity resilience and education efforts. I am confident that Cyber Florida will be successful in achieving the desired outcomes of this initiative, ultimately reinforcing the state's cybersecurity workforce and posture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeannie Garner". The script is fluid and cursive.

Jeannie Garner

Executive Director/CEO

Florida League of Cities





125 East Colonial Drive ♦ Orlando, FL 32801 ♦ (407) 367-1737 ♦ www.flgisa.org

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Sincerely,

Michael J. van Zwieten
Executive Director
FLGISA



March 19, 2025

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Sohl".

Paul Sohl, Rear Adm. USN (ret.)

CEO, Florida High Tech Corridor

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Orlando, FL 32803

floridahightech.com



March 19, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to express my strong support for the Cyber Works cybersecurity workforce development program, which continues to play a vital role in equipping veterans and underrepresented professionals with the skills needed to thrive in the cybersecurity industry. The demand for skilled professionals in this field has never been greater, and this program stands as a crucial bridge, providing career opportunities while strengthening our national security.

Veterans possess a unique combination of discipline, problem-solving abilities, and teamwork—qualities that make them exceptional candidates for cybersecurity roles. However, transitioning from military to civilian careers presents significant challenges. Programs like Cyber Works provide the necessary training, mentorship, and resources to ensure veterans successfully integrate into the cybersecurity workforce, offering them meaningful, long-term career opportunities.

Equally important is the program's commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion in cybersecurity. Broadening access to cybersecurity careers for underrepresented professionals is not only a matter of equity but also a strategic advantage for the industry. A diverse workforce leads to stronger, more innovative solutions and better prepares us to tackle the evolving threats in today's digital landscape.

I commend Cyber Florida for its dedication to expanding this impactful program. By investing in the professional development of veterans and underrepresented individuals, we are investing in a more resilient, inclusive, and highly skilled cybersecurity workforce. As a leader in the technology sector, I fully support this initiative and welcome opportunities to contribute—whether through mentorship, training, or advocacy.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can further support this important effort. I look forward to seeing the continued success of Cyber Works and the lasting impact it will have on the lives of those it serves and the broader cybersecurity community.

Sincerely,

James Taylor
CEO
Florida Technology Council