Higher Education

Northrop Grumman is working with more than 100 universities and colleges globally to provide industry perspective on desired cyber curriculum and degree programs to prepare students for real-world challenges. For instance, Northrop Grumman is funding an initiative at the University of Maryland, College Park, to establish the Advanced Cybersecurity Experience for Students program, the nation’s first undergraduate honors program in cybersecurity, and provided a grant to establish a CyberScholars program at UMBC aimed at building a pipeline of qualified cyber pros with special emphasis on increasing the number of women and underrepresented minorities. In addition, Northrop Grumman is working with both the San Luis Obispo and Pomona campuses of California State Polytechnic University to advance their cyber infrastructure and academic programs, and is assisting other universities in developing undergraduate cyber engineering curricula. The company also supports the Collegiate Cyber Defense competition, a national college-level challenge.

Internationally, Northrop Grumman is aligned with the University of Cambridge, Oxford and Warwick in the UK and provides leadership and sponsorship for the UK Cyber Challenge. In Australia, the company is working with the Australian Defence Force Academy of the University of New South Wales to build a cyber test range. Northrop Grumman is also deploying domestic cyber education/outreach initiatives to the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Singapore.

Professional Development

Northrop Grumman has established its own Cyber Academy, which provides training courses, learning opportunities, career, and 8570 certification pathways to increase the level of knowledge in cyber for employees and our customers. The company has also established its own cyber competency model to help career professionals navigate the burgeoning cyber field.

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Partnering to Make a Difference in Global Security

As a recognized thought leader, Northrop Grumman is applying 30-plus years of cyber expertise with organizations worldwide to advance the cyber discussion and stay ahead of tomorrow’s cyber threat.
Northrop Grumman’s Commitment to Cyber Innovation

Public Private Partnerships

In 2009, the U.S. established a plan to build a “reliable, resilient, trustworthy digital infrastructure for the future.” Critical to this plan was initiating “a dialogue to enhance public-private partnerships with an eye toward streamlining, aligning, and providing resources to optimize their contribution and engagement.” Northrop Grumman moved out on that initiative, leveraging its 30 years of cyber expertise to build partnerships that are shaping a global response to tomorrow’s cyber challenges.

Partnering to advance education and training is critical. In 2012, Northrop Grumman participated in the Homeland Security Advisory Council CyberSkills Task Force, an initiative that’s helping develop a national security workforce as well as enabling DHS to recruit and retain internal cyber talent. As a member of the DHS Cyber Education and Workforce Development Workgroup, Northrop Grumman is sharing best practices to advance education and workforce development. The company is also partnered with the Business Higher Education Forum, an industry/academic/government alliance dedicated to developing the National Undergraduate Cybersecurity Network. Other initiatives include serving on the National Visiting Committee of the National CyberWatch Center and the University-Industry Demonstration Partnership.

Northrop Grumman plays a strategic role in numerous industry and international organizations committed to establishing the frameworks and capabilities for high levels of cybersecurity. These include serving as a founding member of the Defense Industrial Base, partnering with the Transglobal Secure Collaboration Program (TSCP), Internet Security Alliance, National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee, the National Infrastructure Advisory Council, Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA), SANS Institute, and the UK-based City-Forum and IISS. The company is also a charter member of Virginia Semper Secure, a public-private partnership to fuel cyber security innovation and advance economic and academic development in cyber across the Commonwealth.

Addressing critical infrastructure protection (CIP), Northrop Grumman participates in the DHS’s Enhanced Cybersecurity Services program, aimed at bolstering cyber protections for the CIP, and also formed an agreement with the University of Southern California (USC) Viterbi School of Engineering to protect the oil and gas industry from cyber attack.

Research and Innovation: The company’s flagship research initiative is the Northrop Grumman Cybersecurity Research Consortium comprised of MIT, Purdue, Carnegie Mellon and USC. The consortium funds research that tackles the most advanced cyber challenges facing our nation. The company is also partnered with the University of Maryland at Baltimore County (UMBC) to establish the Cyber Cync Program, a start-up business incubator dedicated to cultivating small companies and speeding innovative solutions to our customers.

Middle School/High School: Partnering with organizations to build tomorrow’s cyber workforce is a top priority. That’s why we’ve joined with the Air Force Association to serve as presenting sponsor of CyberPatriot, the National Youth Cyber Education program competition. Funded by the Northrop Grumman Foundation, this cyber defense competition has grown exponentially and is launching into middle schools and internationally. The company also provides scholarship funds to winning teams as well as high school internships to CyberPatriot competitors. The company also sponsors Cool Careers for Girls in CyberSecurity, an effort to reach middle-school girls in the mid-Atlantic region to spur excitement for a career in cyber. The company sponsors yearly high school cyber summer camp in Fairfax, Va., and Aurora, Colorado, teaches a cyber curriculum during the nationally recognized National Youth Science Foundation Camp, and sponsors the High School Involvement Program, a company wide effort to advance STEM.

1 Cyberspace Policy Review, 2009