

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 22, 2021

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Ehardt, Vice Chairman Wisniewski, Representatives Vander Woude, Horman, Scott, Amador, Armstrong, Furniss, Hartgen, Lickley, Young, Adams, Yamamoto, Chew, Necochea, Nash

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Adams, Nash

GUESTS: J Munk Browning, CWI

Chairman Ehardt called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Yamamoto** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2021 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Scott Cramer, the Director of Cybercore Integration Center discussed one of our biggest national security challenges, Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity. In 2014, Russia caused power outages in the Ukraine sending messages of their abilities to the United States. The realities of cyberspace are that existing security efforts are insufficient, and a determined, well-resourced and patient adversary will succeed in penetrating and exploiting infrastructure. Some requirements to help keep our nation safe, expensive R&D systems in place, advances in science and engineering, and adequate technical expertise.

Eleanor Taylor, Cybercore Program Manager and University Partnerships with INL shared strategies INL is using to engage with community colleges. Some include: building the Cybercore Integration Center, providing critical infrastructure, providing speakers, adjunct faculty, internships, STEM Education and Outreach. INL's cybersecurity vision is to enhance cybersecurity ecosystems across Idaho, to protect digital assets by attracting students, giving access to subject matter experts, mentors and research advisors, and leveraging resources, capabilities, facilities and equipment.

In answer to committee concerns, **Ms. Taylor** explained while some duplication needs to happen to meet skill requirements, using the expertise of each university offers diverse learning for Idaho college students. **Mr. Cramer** assured committee members that security is taken seriously, facilities are isolated, and full access is not given to students in secure areas.

Dr. Rick Aman, President of the College of Eastern Idaho explained cybersecurity options at the community college level. In cybersecurity, the college's goals are to provide transfer degrees to a University, provide an Associate of Applied Science, and produce workforce. The colleges are working to get the Secure Operations Centers (SOCs) with real time access to experts and learning in cybersecurity up and running. All four community colleges are working towards a certification from the National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity. The colleges are also involved in STEM outreach K-12 to bring students into the cybersecurity workforce. They are also working on Cyber Applied Baccalaureate, to help technicians with a background in cybersecurity get management training using their background as credits towards a baccalaureate. There are three things they are hoping students graduate with: an academic degree that is accredited by the

Northwest Commission, a relationship with business and industry, and industry recognized certification.

Dr. Dean Fisher, with the College of Southern Idaho, shared some unique parts of CSI's program. CSI offers a 9 credit hour basic technical certificate through IDLA to get high school students to start thinking about cybersecurity as a college study. It is not intended to get them into the workforce, but to interest them in furthering their education.

Mark Browning, the Vice President of the College of Western Idaho, explained how CWI is working to be more aggressive and robust in cybersecurity. CWI is very heavily invested in dual credit, and sees cybersecurity as a great opportunity for high school students. CWI is currently not a member of IRON. In order to participate in the planned cyber exercises with the other institutions, CWI is researching the requirements to join IRON.

Dr. Rick MacLennan, the President of North Idaho College, shared that in 2017 NIC achieved the designation of the National Center for Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity from the NSA and the Dept. of Homeland Security. This designation takes two rigorous years to achieve. Because of the designation, NIC received a \$185,000 grant which has allowed them to expand their cybersecurity program. The colleges are developing an agreement so that students can access courses from any of the four Idaho community colleges to meet their cybersecurity requirements.

Lynn White, the director of External Affairs for Western Governors University explained how WGU gives credit for life experience to go towards a 4 year degree. 100% of their classes are online, with 60+ degrees offered, serving non-traditional students. WGU's College of IT has nine Bachelor Degree programs, four Master's Degrees and one credential, and is certified by Department of Homeland Security and NSA. There are 14 industry relevant certifications in their program. In 2020 at the Cyber-fast Track Competition, 127 of the 541 semi-finalists were WGU students. Nine of the 24 students with perfect scores came from WGU. WGU offers generous transfer privileges for CEI, CWI, and NIC, normally their students graduate within 18 months.

Dr. Aman explained that Idaho Online will allow the colleges to reach out to students in rural areas. And emphasized that it can't be understated how strong the collaboration with community colleges and INL is. **Dr. MacLennan** clarified that although graduates in cybersecurity from community colleges have entry level jobs, the career growth, education possibilities and wages accelerate very quickly.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Representative Ehardt
Chair

Maggie Price
Secretary