Cybersecurity Programs Advisory Board

Thursday May 30th, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Agenda:

- Welcome and introductions
  - New personnel
- Review of Cybersecurity program
  - Projects and initiatives
  - Grants
  - New cyber range lab
  - Future of cybersecurity program is bright!
- Discussions:
  - Employers’ needs (skills/tools/training/certifications, etc.)
  - Internships
  - Volunteers for mentoring
- Future happenings
  - Full time faculty
  - Events for October

Welcome and introductions

New members of the board: Mr. Harriman and Mr. Austin were recognized.
The new member of MassBay team, Mr. Manoj Yeddanapudi the CS department’s new lab manager, was introduced.

Review of Cybersecurity program

The curriculum sheets for all 3 cybersecurity programs as well as the document that contains the course descriptions and learning outcomes for all courses (required and elective) were shared.

The presentation included:

- A brief history of the stackable Cybersecurity programs and approval of the Associate in Science degree by the Massachusetts Department of Higher education
- Approval of both certificates and the A.S. degree by Department of Veterans Affairs
- MassBay’s Cybersecurity program was featured in the White House’s Fact Sheet (Biden-Harris Administration Announces National Cyber Workforce and Education Strategy (NCWES), Unleashing America’s Cyber Talent) having demonstrated their commitment to the NCWES through their actions and partnerships.
The role and goals of MassBay’s Center for Cybersecurity Education and the activities:

- Provided resources to high school students and teachers
  - Offered workshops to area high schools on basic Cybersecurity (for students) and cyber range exercise (for teachers)
- Disseminate knowledge to other colleges
  - Offered workshops on newly created labs on MassBay’s cyber range (through NSF ACT grant) and the cyber range cloud-based platform (through a grant by MassCyber Center and CyberTrust MA) to faculty from other colleges at MassBay and at CCSCNE conference.
- Regional industry
  - ISACA, Genians, OCD Tech, and WiCyS provided hands-on exercise to high school students (and parents) as well as MassBay students. This event, Cybersecurity Festival, was open to the public.
    - ISACA subsequently announced 2 scholarships specifically for MassBay Cybersecurity students!
- Enhancing students’ cybersecurity knowledge
  - MassBay students participated in a CTF competition offered by CyberTrust MA and were placed in first and third! They had practiced exercises on cloud-based cyber range.
  - A lecture series by practitioners from industry during the October 2023

**Discussions**

Members were asked to provide feedback on the current curriculum, required skills, and types of training that should be considered for students.

Ms. Drolet informed everyone that she is trying to push for paid internships and offer emergency funds to Cybersecurity students.

Note: Ms. Drolet (with collaboration with MassBay and specifically Mr. Lyons) has been running a Security Summit event every year and the proceeds from the summit have benefited Cybersecurity students in the form of scholarships.

Mr. Burns commented that there are internship opportunities on Draper kabs website that he will share. These will be posted for MassBay’s Cybersecurity students, who are planning to complete their capstone course (the last course in the A.S. program).

The use of CIS resources was recommended at events to encourage and excite students to study Cybersecurity.

These led to discussions about the importance of teaching/informing students about zero trust and AI for both security and privacy.

Members were asked:
• Volunteer as mentors for Cybersecurity students. Mr. Harriman informed the board members that at least 4 members of OCD Tech have already become mentors!
• Help us with events being planned for October, the Cybersecurity month.
• Connect us with small businesses and startups that need affordable security training for their employees that can be offered through the new cyber range lab at MassBay with access cloud-based platform.

Future happenings

The first and most important task is to complete the application for CAE-CD designation.

MassBay Cybersecurity team will continue:

• expanding collaboration with industry in an effort to provide internship opportunities and mentors for students.
• working with 4-year institutions on articulations. UMass Lowell, Wentworth, and Assumption college are ongoing and will start working with Framingham State University to help with creating their program.
• providing resources to partner high schools and other colleges
• present our findings to Cybersecurity community in MA and nationally