



# THE NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: AN INNOVATIVE AND SCALABLE FRAMEWORK TO EXPAND THE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY HUMAN CAPITAL

TUESDAY: SESSION 2, TRACK 3

## SESSION CHAIR

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Eman El-Sheikh, University of West Florida

## PANELISTS

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- Diane M. Janosek, Commandant, National Cryptologic School, National Security Agency
- Dr. Eman El-Sheikh, Associate Vice President, Center for Cybersecurity, Professor of Computer Science, University of West Florida
- Dr. Dipankar Dasgupta, Director, Center for Information Assurance and Hill Professor of Cybersecurity, University of Memphis
- Dr. Art Conklin, Professor, University of Houston

## SESSION ABSTRACT

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This session will highlight the National Cybersecurity Workforce Development Program, a nationally scalable and sustainable certificate-based cybersecurity workforce program to rapidly expand the number of qualified cybersecurity professionals across critical infrastructure sectors. Funded by the National Security Agency, the program focuses on recruiting, preparing, and placing transitioning military, first responders, and veterans into cybersecurity work roles in our nation's Critical Infrastructure Sectors, starting with the defense industrial base, energy, and financial services sectors. The CyberSkills2Work Program offers 15 workforce pathways that align with NICE Cybersecurity Workforce Framework work roles and accommodate learners' diverse aptitudes, education, and experience. A coalition of colleges and universities across the country led by the University of West Florida, offer courses both in-person and online, making the program accessible and convenient for transitioning professionals. Upon successfully completing a course or program, participants are awarded industry certifications and stackable digital badges to document skills and competencies. Learners also receive career development guidance and connect with employers and job opportunities via the National Cybersecurity Employers Network. The program will train and help place over 1600 transitioning military and first responders into critical infrastructure security roles



over the next two years. The session will highlight the program goals, status, future plans, related research, and partnership opportunities.

Topics:

- Critical infrastructure security
- Cybersecurity workforce development
- Competency-focused training and assessment
- Reskilling and upskilling
- NICE Cybersecurity Workforce Framework
- Stackable digitally verifiable credentials
- Cyber Range training
- Cyber resiliency research