SUPPORT ONLINE CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION FOR RESKILLING AND TRAINING

Background

There is a large demand for cybersecurity workers across many sectors of the American economy, and thus far, the supply of workers with the appropriate skills is limited. The demand for more connections during this stay-at-home period has and will continue to exacerbate this situation. Counting only on graduates from four-year, two-year, and vocational institutions will keep the Nation in its vulnerable cybersecurity position. Creating a process and pipeline for workers who have attained degrees in other subjects would help to fill the gaps required for both national and homeland security purposes.

Proposal

Support the formation and management of a consortium of institutions that provide vocational, bachelor's, and master's-level cybersecurity training, including online elements. The consortium could focus on delivering a highly trained cybersecurity workforce to locations around the country, by providing various levels of training to entry-level and experienced workers.

For the vocational level, the online coursework would focus on providing baseline knowledge and training for students to attain entry-level, industry-recognized cybersecurity certifications (such as Security+ or Network+). For bachelor's and master's degrees, this online consortium would focus on 1) providing coursework to allow students to transition quickly into a bachelor's or master's degree program, and 2) providing coursework to attain a bachelor's or master's degree in cybersecurity.

Proposed Funding

Approximately $20 million would allow a non-profit, educational institute to form and manage the consortium, quickly develop and adopt a core set of curricula, and support scholarships for students to attend. This model would become self-sustaining through charging affordable tuition rates to students.

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