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WHERE BUSINESS IS TURNING.

Cybersecurity: Taking charge of the future

Walsh College   *10:01 a.m. EST January 11, 2016*

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(Photo: Thinkstock)

From the corner grocery store to the highest levels of government and the military, cybersecurity is an increasing concern for most everyone from the general public to the nation's leadership.

Once a tedious game of cat-and-mouse with amateur hackers, the attacks and incursions have evolved into a full-fledged war on computer and information systems from groups ranging from organized crime to rogue government-sponsored teams.

The need to keep systems safe and fully-functional for the economic and personal security of information related to business, military, academia and governments is obvious.

The big question: Do we have enough talented "cyberwarrriors" to meet the exponentially growing needs and demands of these interests?

Walsh College is taking a leadership role in southeast Michigan to grow the team of cybersecurity professionals demanded by employers.

It now offers students a new cybersecurity concentration in its graduate Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) program.

This program is unique as it maps to several external standards. The standards include Department of Defense directive 8570, the National Security Agency Center of Academic Excellence course requirements, and the Department of Homeland Security NICE Framework, which make the program a first in the southeast Michigan educational market.

Through this concentration, Walsh College is preparing the next generation of cybersecurity professionals. Students will develop the ability to employ information technology and cybersecurity knowledge and skills for tactical and strategic advantage.

They will also apply critical, strategic, ethical and innovative thinking to achieve results-oriented organizational goals.

Barbara Ciaramitaro, Ph.D., lead professor, Information Technology and Cybersecurity at Walsh College, says the number of cybersecurity professionals needed is growing exponentially. *(Photo: Walsh College)*

"The future of cybersecurity and the number of trained people needed to protect and defend information systems on which businesses depend are growing exponentially," said Barbara Ciaramitaro, Ph.D., lead professor, Information Technology and Cybersecurity. "Both students and employers are demanding greater emphasis on cybersecurity in IT education programs to meet the growing need in the marketplace."

Cybersecurity courses include Fundamentals of Cybersecurity; Security Program Management; Business Continuity; Resiliency and Crisis Management; Threats, Vulnerabilities, Controls, and Countermeasures; Intelligence Analysis Tools and Techniques; Social, Political, and Cultural Impacts of Cybersecurity; and Current Issues in Cybersecurity.

Walsh has made cybersecurity a major center of research through the establishment of its Center for Cybersecurity Leadership (CCL), which is a collaboration between its Management and Information Technology Departments with strong support from business, military and government leaders. The goal of the Center is to bring together experts from government, armed services, business and academia to examine and address cybersecurity issues and provide guidance and solutions.

Students and businesses alike are turning to Walsh to make sure there are enough well-educated, well-versed, qualified people to address these critical issues.

To learn more about the importance of educating the next generation of cyberwarriors, take part in Walsh's webinar "Next Generation Cyber Warriors – Cyber 4.0" happening 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 20. For additional information, visit http://www.walshcollege.edu/webseries (http://www.walshcollege.edu/webseries/?utm_source=det_news&utm_medium=article_link&utm_content=cybersecurity&utm_campaign=native).

Founded in 1922 and celebrating more than 90 years of business education, Walsh College offers 19 business and related technology degree programs at the bachelor's and master's levels that are responsive to student, employer, and community needs. Walsh is a private, not-for-profit institution offering courses and services at locations in Troy, Novi, Clinton Township, Port Huron, and online.

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