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OSIT AWARDS \$416,000 TO 8 HIGH SCHOOLS TO CREATE NEW PATHWAYS TO CAREERS IN CYBERSECURITY

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The Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) today announced it has awarded three STEM Workforce Pathways grants for the establishment of cybersecurity programs at eight Nevada high schools. These grants will help build pathways to the four postsecondary cybersecurity programs OSIT has funded in the last three years. The eight high schools are located in the Clark, Washoe, and Nye County School Districts, and at Pinecrest Academy, a charter school in Henderson, Nevada. A total of about 785 students will participate in these cybersecurity programs on an annual basis.

"Cybersecurity professionals are in high demand throughout Nevada and around the country. These grants will help high school students start on the pathway to a high-paying, rewarding STEM career," **said Brian Mitchell, Director of OSIT.** "I would like to thank the Nevada Department of Education for their partnership in making these programs a reality."

The Clark County School District was awarded \$161,160 to create a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program of study in cybersecurity at three high schools: Bonanza High School, Del Sol High School, and Legacy High School. Students in grades 9-12 will be enrolled in the program. Students will have the opportunity to earn Comp TIA A+, Network+, and Security+ industry-recognized credentials. During the three-course sequence, students will learn cyber ethics, network security, computer forensics, incident handling, the theory of switching and routing, and network troubleshooting. About 360 students will enroll in the cybersecurity programs across the three high schools.

The Washoe County School District was awarded \$138,647 to create a CTE program of study in cybersecurity at three high schools: Spanish Springs High School, Wooster High School and the Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology (AACT). Students will complete the program with industry credentials in Comp TIA A+, Network+, and Security+. Students will be qualified for entry-level jobs in cybersecurity upon high school graduation or qualified to enter more advanced postsecondary cybersecurity programs. At capacity, the three high school programs will enroll about 100 students.

Pinecrest Academy of Nevada was awarded \$116,571 to create a CTE program of study at its Cadence campus in Henderson. Students will complete rigorous course study and curriculum in alignment with the following content standards: 1) Safety procedures and proper use of tools; 2) Install and secure operating systems; 3) Industry standards, practices, and network theory; 4) Networking architecture; 5) Network operations; 6) Cybersecurity lifecycle; 7) Computer forensics concepts; and 8) Emerging technologies. Students will be prepared to test for the following certifications: Comp TIA A+, Network+, and Security+. Pinecrest estimates that about 300 students will participate in its cybersecurity program.

OSIT also awarded \$1,303 to a high school computer science and cybersecurity CTE teacher at **Pahrump Valley High School** in Pahrump, NV, for cybersecurity-related professional development. The grant will pay for the teacher to complete two courses at the College of Southern Nevada and the corresponding certification

examinations for CompTIA A+ and Network+. Funding from the grant will enable the teacher to be certified in the same credentials students at Pahrump Valley High School will be preparing for.

Cybersecurity Facts

- In Nevada, the projected growth rate in the number of jobs requiring cybersecurity skills through 2022 is 30 percent.
- Jobs in cybersecurity have an average wage of about \$85,000. Wages start at about \$55,000 per year.
- 70 percent of organizations require cybersecurity applicants to have a security certification.

About OSIT and STEM Workforce Pathways Grants

The mission of OSIT is to coordinate, support, and align efforts by K-12 and higher education, workforce development and employers to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and STEM workforce development so that Nevada's workforce can meet the demands of its growing economy.

STEM Workforce Pathways Grants support and enhance existing efforts throughout Nevada to provide high school students with the opportunity to progress toward or complete an industry-recognized, high-demand, STEM postsecondary credential, certificate, or degree while in high school in order to secure a high-wage job in the New Nevada economy.

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