



**Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC) Meeting**  
**Claiborne Building | Regents Conference Room, Suite 6-200**  
**April 9, 2024 | 10:00 A.M.**

**Committee Members/Representatives Present**

Rick Bateman  
William Bradley  
Bonnie Chelette  
Tristan Denley  
Emily DiPalma (arrived after roll call)  
Rick Gallot (Proxy – Rich Vath)  
Paul Helton  
Daphne Williams

**Committee Members Not Present**

Michael Boykin  
Gabriel Fagbeyiro  
Greg Trahan

**Staff Members Present**

Clint Coleman  
Carrie Robison  
Jennifer Stevens

**I. Welcome and Agenda Overview**

Dr. Denley called the meeting of the Cybersecurity Education Management Council to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed the attendees. Next, Dr. Coleman called the roll and noted quorum was obtained.

*On motion of Mr. Paul Helton, seconded by Dr. Tristan Denley, the Council approved the 2024 first-quarter meeting minutes.*

**II. Review Scoring and Awardee Selection**

Next, the Committee discussed the applications received for funding consideration. With \$2.9M in requests and \$1M available for award, Dr. Coleman outlined two potential approaches to application selection. The first proposed funding for six (6) new and one (1) sustained program. The second approach proposed funding for one (1) sustained and four (4) new programs. Dr. Coleman added that awarding Louisiana Tech University the full amount requested, as proposed in scenario #2, would reduce opportunities to fund new programs. In addition, Louisiana Tech had been in each of the previous years of CTIF, receiving a total of \$989,058 of the \$3M allocated. Dr. Denley added that Louisiana Tech's full funding in the previous rounds should indicate that the program will be fully self-sustaining in the near future. Dr. Bateman noted that of the sustained applications Louisiana Tech's provided the most information about how funding has been used over the last three years. Others agreed that though Louisiana Tech's application was very strong, the program should be soon be sustainable, and the Council should consider funding more new projects.

Mr. Bradley suggested a third recommendation that would incorporate the four (4) highest-rated new projects and the two (2) highest-rated sustained projects, though the Council noted that the total funds requested by these programs exceeded the \$1M available for expenditure. Mr. Bradley suggested reducing the LaTECH award by the amount by which the \$1M allocation was exceeded. He indicated agreement with other comments regarding sustainability and noted that the program has received strong support from industry. Dr. Williams and other members shared their support for recommendation one, which would support new programs in different regions of the state. Conversation continued regarding the impact of UNO's proposal on industry recruitment to the area and the advantages and disadvantages of reducing or eliminating funding for Louisiana Tech's program.

Dr. Denley suggested pulling McNeese's program from funding as it would benefit from the work of the LA Cyber Academy – the subject of Bossier Parish Community College's recommended application – while funding approximately half of Louisiana Tech's request to recognize the great work already accomplished and to allow time to ensure sustainability moving forward. Members agreed that this recommendation reflected the spirit of the scoring and would spread resources across multiple regions of the state. The recommended funding was as follows:

Institution	Project Title	Funds Requested	Funds Recommended	Project Type
Bossier Parish Community College, Lead Institution	Establishing the LA Cyber Academy (Statewide)	\$210,000	\$210,000	New
Nicholls State University	Maritime Cybersecurity at Nicholls State University	\$94,125	\$94,125	New
Southern University and A&M College (SUBR)	Empowering Cybersecurity Leaders by Establishing an Executive Master's Program in Cybersecurity, and Offering Mentorship Programs and Industry-Partnered Certificates	\$185,810	\$185,810	New
Fletcher Technical Community College	Enhancing Experiential Learning to Increase Workplace Readiness of Cybersecurity Students	\$220,000	\$220,000	New
University of New Orleans Cyber Center (UNOCC)	Development of an Advanced Cybersecurity Certificate Program	\$95,773	\$95,773	New
Northwestern State University	Central Louisiana Cybersecurity Talent Enhancement Program	\$30,000	\$30,000	Sustained
Louisiana Tech University	Louisiana Tech University's Cyber Security Talent Expansion Program	\$353,211	\$164,292	Sustained
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,188,919</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	

*On motion of Dr. Rick Bateman, seconded by Mr. Bill Bradley, the Council approved funding recommendations for the 2024 RFA cycle.*

**III. Metrics for Consideration on New Awards**

Dr. Denley stated that until this point CTIF awardees have been provided funding with no obligation to submit metrics or qualitative data showing the impact of the programs supported. He asked Council members what information they would like to see and in what format it should be received (e.g., end-of-year report). Dr. Coleman indicated that based on a previous discussion of reporting he had compiled a list of standard metrics (qualitative and quantitative), included in each member’s folder. He asked members to review the list and provide feedback. Mr. Bradley suggested, and other members agreed, that types of jobs to be tracked should be clarified. Based on the feedback, Dr. Coleman indicated that he would create and implement an awardee reporting system in Survey Monkey and bring reports back to the Council.

*On motion of Mr. Bill Bradley, seconded by Mr. Paul Helton, the Council approved the metrics for the new awards.*

**IV. Upcoming Initiatives and Planning**

Dr. Denley reflected on the work of the Council to date, including funding a small number of programs, both new and sustained, across the state. He stated that this aspect of the work seems to be complete. He suggested that the Council is moving into a new phase of using this work, focused on creating statewide assets that others would be able to utilize. He noted that the creation of the Cyber Academy will be a huge step forward.

Mr. Helton suggested creating more delineation between new and sustained programs moving forward, which would better reflect the focus of the program on establishing new programs. Further, he noted that sustainability is discussed in the applications, but most show no real plan to achieve this. He also asked if there should be a percentage of funding should be allocated for each project type, to ensure both receive appropriate consideration. Dr. Coleman responded that following the first year of funding, the Council discussed establishing percentages but could not determine a reasonable approach so decided against doing so at that time. Dr. Coleman stated that now may be a good

time to reevaluate that option. Dr. Denley suggested providing a draft of the FY25 Request for Applications prior to the next meeting and then using that time to discuss if and how lines should be drawn. Dr. Coleman agreed to provide a draft prior to the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**V. Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**

The subject of the next quarterly meeting was discussed in the previous agenda item, so the Council moved forward to discuss other business.

**VI. Other Business/Adjournment**

Dr. Williams asked about the possibility of conducting CEMC meetings virtually. Dr. Denley stated the Regents' legal team has clarified that, as the law currently stands, CEMC is statutorily required to meet four times per year, while the threshold to hold meetings online is six meetings per year. He noted, however, that meetings do not always have to be held in Baton Rouge, suggesting that meetings move around the state and include opportunities to tour program facilities on multiple campuses. Members expressed enthusiastic support of this approach.

With no additional comments or items for discussion, through unanimous consent of the members the Committee adjourned at 10:33 a.m.