



**Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC) Meeting
Board of Regents Conference Room | Claiborne Building
May 14th, 2025 | 10:00 A.M.**

Committee Members/Representatives Present

Tristan Denley
Rick Bateman
Michael Bendich
Mark Bond
Bonnie Chelette
Emily DiPalma
Greg Trahan

Committee Members Not Present

William Bradley
Michael Boykin
Rick Gallot
Gabriel Fagbeyiro

I. Welcome and Agenda Overview

Dr. Tristan Denley called the meeting of the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC) to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed the attendees. Roll call was conducted, confirming the presence of committee members listed above. Lieutenant Colonel Michael Binet introduced himself as the J36 with the Louisiana National Guard, overseeing cyber operations for both Army and Air components. He detailed his role in combating cyber attacks in Louisiana since 2019, including his work with the 7/69th Brigade Engineer Battalion and his involvement in the Louisiana National Guard's cyber initiatives.

II. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Denley called for a motion to approve the minutes from the first and fourth quarters. The motion was made by Bonnie Chelette and was seconded by Mark Bond and approved unanimously.

III. 2025 RFA Discussion and Funding Proposals

Dr. Denley outlined the main event of the meeting: the approval of funding proposals for cyber education across the state. He noted that the legislature has appropriated \$1 million annually for the past five years to support cyber education, leading to significant program expansion. The recommended list of proposals for funding is highlighted in the below table.

Type of Program	Name of Program	Institution	Award Amount
New Project	Building Career Pathways: A Workforce Certification Initiative	Southeastern University	\$124,640.00
New Project	AI-Powered Cybersecurity Education to Address the Industry Skills Gap	University of Louisiana-Monroe	\$129,532.00
Sustained	Enhancing Experiential Learning for Cybersecurity Honors Students to Strengthen Workforce Readiness	Fletcher Technical Community College	\$150,000.00
Sustained	The LA Cyber Academy (Statewide)	Bossier Parish Community College	\$120,000.00

Sustained	Central Louisiana Cybersecurity Talent Enhancement Program	Northwestern State University	\$40,000.00
Sustained	Comprehensive Cyber Talent Pipeline	LSU Shreveport	\$133,243.00
Sustained	Empowering Cybersecurity Leaders by Establishing an Executive Master's Program in Cybersecurity, Mentorship, and Industry-Partnered Certificates	Southern University-Shreveport	\$155,265.00
Sustained	Development of an Advanced Cybersecurity Certificate Program	University of New Orleans	\$105,804.00
		Total	\$958,484.00

A motion to approve the recommendations for funding, totaling \$958,000 and including the additional \$42,000 to the Cyber Academy, was asked for. The motion was made by Mark Bond and seconded by Bonnie Chelette and approved unanimously by the council.

IV. Federal Funding and Broader Cyber Initiatives

Dr. Denley shared updates on the state's efforts to secure federal funding to expand broadband internet access and related initiatives. The Board of Regents proposes using \$50 million of this funding to build capacity in cyber and IT infrastructure, as well as telehealth.

The focus includes creating new Nexus degrees, enhancing existing programs, and improving student success and completion rates. Dr. Denley emphasized the importance of leveraging the lessons learned from the Cyber Academy to scale up these initiatives.

V. Military and Veteran-Friendly Programs

Dr. Denley discussed the Governor's Military and Veteran-Friendly Campus designation, which has been expanded to include tiers of excellence: bronze, silver, and gold. BPC received the gold award last year, and other campuses are working to achieve higher designations.

The initiative aims to support military families and veterans by connecting them to educational and training opportunities. Dr. Denley mentioned the potential renaming of the program to the Purple Star program, which is gaining national recognition.

VI. New Business and Adjournment

Dr. Denley opened the floor for any additional comments or questions from the participants.

Greg Trahan shared updates on federal agency interest in Louisiana's cyber initiatives and the importance of translating cyber skills to critical infrastructure environments.

Dr. Denley and Dr. Bateman discussed the potential for tailored cyber education programs for various disciplines and the importance of collaboration.

With no additional comments or items for discussion, through unanimous consent of the members, the Council adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

