

Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC) Meeting

October 12, 2021

10:00 AM

The CEMC met on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, by Virtual Zoom.

Council Members/Representatives Present

Rick Bateman
William (Bill) Bradley
Les Guice
Susana Schowen
Greg Trahan
Tavares Walker
Daphne Williams

Brian Landry
Luke Purdy

Staff Members Present

Clint Coleman
Jennifer Stevens

Guests

Hisham Hegab
Madison Poche
Golden Richard III

Council Members Not Present

Gabriel Fagbeyiro
Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed

Welcome, Roll Call, and Updates

Dr. Coleman welcomed the Council to the 4th Quarter CEMC Meeting, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., called roll, and determined that there was a quorum. Next, he provided information for public commenting and live viewing of the meeting and opened the floor for questions and motion to approve the July meeting minutes.

There was a motion from Mr. Walker to approve the July meeting minutes and a second from Ms. Schowen. With there being no opposition, the meeting minutes were approved.

Dr. Coleman informed the Council of Dr. Randall Brumfield's departure from the Board of Regents and stated that he now reports to the Deputy Commissioner of Sponsored Initiatives, Carrie Robison. Dr. Coleman also noted the alignment of CEMC with LaSTEM and will be sharing future opportunities. Next, Ms. Schowen shared current funding opportunities through the Economic Development Administration.

Mr. Trahan moved into the next agenda item which included hearing from three awardees who received funding from the initial request for applications (RFAs) and the progress they had made so far in their projects.

First, Dr. Bateman introduced Ms. Madison Poche from Bossier Parish Community College. Ms. Poche stated they have rebranded their project which is now called Cybersecurity Fellowship for Women. The main goal was working on critical IT workforce needs. With this program, they provided scholarships for students to take a short-term accelerated network security CTC class. Ten women were selected for this program.

Second, Dr. Les Guice provided context around supporting growth in IT in north Louisiana and introduced Dean Hisham Hegab from Louisiana Tech University. Dean Hegab described their program, C-STEP, which focuses on establishing an undergraduate certificate in cybersecurity. The goal was to provide opportunities for students to have access to cybersecurity certifications and create a pipeline for students who were not IT-focused to have opportunities for credentialing. The 18-credit hour certificate was developed over the summer, and they have begun piloting two courses.

Last, Mr. Trahan introduced Dr. Golden Richard from Louisiana State University. Dr. Richard described their program, FIREStarter, which will build a new cyber range system with a dedicated laboratory where LSU students, state police, and other partners can use the facility and system. This will also be integrated into new and current courses.

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Council Discussions

Next, Mr. Trahan revisited the Council's intentions with this year's funds of \$1M. For informational purposes, he stated the Council has the ability to rollover funds from year to year. One of the complaints from the awardees was the tight timeline for proposal submission. Mr. Trahan suggested moving up the timeline to January. He also mentioned after the last Council meeting, two paths seemed to develop from initial discussions, (1) Allocations with multiple RFAs and (2) Master RFA with multiple tracks. Dr. Coleman mentioned the potential alignment with LaSTEM and opportunities for outreach support for these programs through the STEM Centers. Conversations will continue and Dr. Coleman will keep the Council updated. Mr. Trahan opened the floor for feedback and comments on the paths and next steps.

Dr. Guice commented that he liked the idea of having either option with wanting to see new programs develop but also continuing to support this past year's programs. Ms. Schowen agreed that we often see programs get off the ground but have difficulty sustaining themselves. She stated it is also important to have the opportunity to see new proposals because of the abrupt turnaround of the timeline last year. Dr. Coleman suggested not setting aside funds in certain areas until the proposals are submitted and reviewed. Ms. Schowen agreed with maximum flexibility.

Dr. Guice mentioned he was in contact with senators and representatives and that there might be interest in extending funding another year. Mr. Trahan noted his appreciation in hearing from the awardees and their work in meeting the state's needs. He suggested that no matter how the Council chooses to move forward with the RFA, as long as it continues to deliver results like the ones they just heard, that it would most likely work for the Council and also the legislators. He also asked for consideration of guardrails for what may be appropriate for funding if the Council looks into the sustainability perspective. Dr. Bateman echoed Dr. Guice and Ms. Schowen's comments about flexibility and multiple pathways. Regarding sustainability, Dr. Bateman mentioned it was something all of the programs considered with their initial applications. He stated there should be opportunities to support scaling some of the initiatives that have proven themselves as concepts in year one. Adding to Dr. Guice's comment on continuing streams of funding, Dr. Bateman suggested the Council spend time thinking about how they can capture and tell these stories. Dr. Williams, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Bradley all shared agreement in flexibility and preference for path number two as well.

Mr. Trahan noted the importance of consistent messaging which should be initiated from the Board of Regents. In addition, the Council can begin circulating that communication internally. He also mentioned the need of capturing data. Dr. Coleman mentioned the metrics can go into the legislative reports. Dr. Williams noted she would be interested in seeing additional information from the presenters on demographics and who their programs are reaching to better craft the RFA.

For next steps, Mr. Trahan, Dr. Coleman, and Ms. Schowen would update the language of the RFA and circulate among the Council for a January release. In addition, they would create a numbers fact sheet to send to the awardees to gather the information Dr. Williams requested to use in consideration with the RFA.

Other Business

One public comment was received from Mr. Frank Kidd, "Has there been any consideration for helping to spread cybersecurity education within K-12 schools, especially high schools?" Dr. Coleman stated the statue specifically states, "special fund for the purpose of funding degree and certificate programs in cybersecurity fields offered by public postsecondary education institutions in order to meet the state's workforce needs." Dr. Coleman previously reached out to LOSFA's legal team to ask if a proposal could be specific to outreach or working with K-12 schools. The legal team stated no, because the language in the statue is specific to postsecondary education institutions. However, the proposals can have outreach built into them but cannot be a proposal specifically on K-12 grade. Dr. Bateman added that cybersecurity.org is a source Mr. Kidd should look into as they are doing phenomenal work across the country when it comes to promoting cybersecurity in the K-12 environment.

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The proposed 2022 meeting dates for CEMC are as follows:

- Tuesday, January 25th, 10am-11:30 am
- Tuesday, April 26th, 10 am - 11:30 am
- Tuesday, August 9th, 10 am - 11:30 am
- Tuesday, November 9th, 10 am - 11:30 am

With there being no objections for the proposed meeting dates or other comments/business, a motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Bateman and a second by Mr. Bradley. With all in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.