Women in Technology Newsletter

In the 2023-2024 academic year, CCBC's Women in Technology group met three times in both the fall and spring semesters. In fall 2023 students who chose to, were assigned a faculty mentor. The group met monthly, providing resources and activities.

Highlighted Events

CCBC Cybersecurity Institute Relaunch: Fostering Cyber Readiness and Talent

On October 24, 2023, the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) breathed new life into its Cybersecurity Institute by hosting a dynamic Cyber/Workforce and Academic forum. The event brought together high school students, industry partners, and academic collaborators, all converging to explore the critical importance of enhancing and safeguarding cyber readiness.

Key Highlights:

- Audience Diversity: The relaunch event welcomed participants from Baltimore-area communities, emphasizing the involvement of local high school students. This inclusive approach aimed to raise awareness about cybersecurity and digital forensics program offerings, internships, apprenticeships, and workforce development opportunities.

- Strong Attendance: Approximately 150 individuals attended the forum, demonstrating the community's keen interest in cybersecurity education and career pathways.

- Student Volunteers: Among the standout contributors were two Women in Technology students—Ms. Zainb Meredith and Dumont Tadja Henriette—who volunteered their time to support CCBC during the relaunch. Their dedication exemplified the spirit of collaboration and commitment within the cybersecurity community.

CCBC Students in Action:

- Competitions: CCBC students actively engaged in cyber competitions, including weekly challenges and high-stakes Capture the Flag (CTF) contests.

- National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC): Seven CCBC students participated in the prestigious CyberMaryland conference, where they competed in the CCDC. Their skills were put to the test on December 6th, 2023, during an in-person event hosted at the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC).

- Triumphant Team: A standout trio—Zainb Meredith, William Gibson, and Joel Moreno Ruperez—clinched victory as the top-performing team in the Cyber competition.

The CCBC Cybersecurity Institute's relaunch not only celebrated achievements but also underscored the ongoing commitment to nurturing

Women in Technology End-of-Semester Celebration (December 18th, 2023):

- The Women in Technology group at CCBC hosted a lively end-of-semester celebration. During this event, Ms. Marie Zwickert, Business Development Manager at Cisco Systems, Inc., took the stage to introduce the Cisco Apprenticeship program within the Cisco Talos Intelligence group.

- As a direct outcome of Ms. Zwickert's presentation, two CCBC students—William Gibson and Trey Waller—secured coveted apprenticeships at Cisco Talos Intelligence. Their journey from the classroom to a leading cybersecurity organization exemplifies the power of educational partnerships.

A Memorable Encounter with Mr. Cory Coker (January 11th, 2024):

- CCBC had the privilege of hosting Mr. Cory Coker, the new Director of the National Cybersecurity Directorate. His visit was eagerly anticipated by students, alumni, cyber employers, local business leaders, and industry colleagues.

- Mr. Coker's words resonated deeply: "Meeting with students reminded me that the future of cybersecurity is bright." His encouragement and insights left a lasting impact on everyone present.

- The event drew an impressive crowd, including local high school students, community college attendees, delegates, employer partners, and government officials—all united in their commitment to shaping a secure digital landscape.

Two our Women in Tech alumni and three current students participated in one-on-one with National Cybersecurity Director, Mr. Harry Coker on January 11th, 2024.

Empowering Women in Cybersecurity: CCBC's CCDC Journey

On February 29th, 2024, three of our talented Women in Tech students fearlessly stepped onto the cyber battleground alongside their male counterparts. The occasion? The prestigious Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC), where brains clashed, firewalls trembled, and digital fortresses were tested.

- **CCDC Showdown:**

  - Armed with knowledge and determination, our CCBC warriors faced off against students from both four-year colleges and community colleges. It was a battle of wits, strategy, and nerves—a true testament to their cybersecurity prowess.

  - Dr. Whitaker, their guide and mentor, watches with pride as they prepare to defend our digital realm.

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- **East Coast Capture the Flag (CTF):**
  - In February, CCBC students engaged in the exhilarating Capture the Flag competition for the East Coast region. Their mission? Unravel cryptic challenges, exploit vulnerabilities, and hoist the digital flag high.
  - The result? A hard-fought second place—a badge of honor that propelled them forward.

- **Nationwide Glory Beckons:**
  - But that wasn't the end. Their victory earned them a golden ticket—to Tampa, Florida, no less! On May 8th, 2024, they represented CCBC in the nationwide CCDC showdown.

Participants -Regional Competition held at Prince George Community College

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"Illuminating Her Path": Celebrating Women in Cybersecurity

On Friday, March 29th, the National Security Agency's Cybersecurity Collaboration Center proudly hosted its inaugural "Illuminating Her Path" event. This special occasion was a fitting tribute to Women's History Month, shining a spotlight on the remarkable contributions of women in the field of cybersecurity.

Key Highlights:

- **Time and Place:** From 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, participants gathered to honor the occasion. The event took place at the Cybersecurity Collaboration Center—an apt setting for celebrating women's achievements.

- **Journey and Footprint:** Throughout the event, attendees explored the inspiring journeys of women who have made their mark in cybersecurity. Their footprints—whether in research, leadership, or technical expertise—illuminate the path for future generations.

Empowering Diversity: CAMI's Commitment to Cybersecurity Inclusion

The Cybersecurity Association of Maryland, Inc. (CAMI) is on a mission: to break down barriers and create pathways for underrepresented groups in the dynamic world of cybersecurity. **Year-Round Activities:**

- Throughout the year, CAMI hosts a series of diversity-focused events. These gatherings serve as networking hubs, educational platforms, and sources of inspiration.

- One such event—the Cyber Mixology Event—took place on April 24th. It blended knowledge, connections, and a dash of creativity.

2. **CCBC Women in Technology:**

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- Six talented CCBC students from the Women in Technology program participated in CAMI's event. Their presence exemplifies the impact of bridging gaps and creating opportunities.

- Together, they're shaping the future of cybersecurity—one diverse perspective at a time.

So here's to CAMI, the Diversity and Workforce Committee, and all those who champion inclusion.

Empowering Connections: Himani Chhabra's Cisco Dream Team Journey

Our very own CCBC student, Himani Chhabra, recently embarked on an exciting adventure with the Cisco Dream Team. For two weeks, she immersed herself in the world of networking, armed with determination and curiosity.

- **The Setting:**

o Himani's mission? To set up Cisco equipment for the prestigious tournament. But this wasn't just about routers and switches—it was about creating seamless connections for the athletes, the organizers, and the fans.

- **Hands-On Collaboration:**

o Himani had the privilege of collaborating with Safari Events. Together, they wove a digital tapestry, ensuring that Wi-Fi signals flowed effortlessly across the greens.

o From initial wiring designs (because every great connection starts with a well-laid cable) to configuring access points, Himani dove headfirst into the intricacies of network infrastructure.
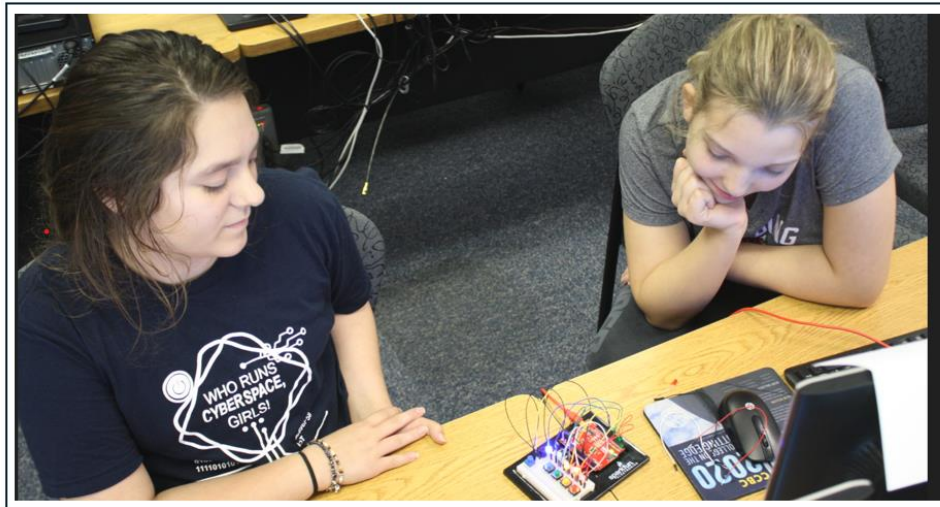
- **Challenges and Growth:**

  - Every task brought new challenges. Troubleshooting remote connections became a puzzle—a chance to flex her problem-solving muscles.

  - And guess what? It ignited a passion. Himani discovered the thrill of hands-on networking projects—the heartbeat of her budding cybersecurity career.

- **Gratitude to CCBC:**

  - Himani's parting words resonate: "I am deeply grateful to CCBC for facilitating this invaluable

opportunity." Professional growth and development—those aren't just buzzwords; they're the foundation of her journey.

April 15th, Women in Technology hosted workshop on Raspberry Pi hands on activity

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Kudos

Ana Kloth shared her personal CCBC experience during a reception for STEM education, hosted by Trustee Richard on April 26th, 2024, at 5:30 PM at the Guinness Brewery.

Women in Technology Graduates

December 2023

- Regina Clark
- Taylenn Knight

May 2024

- Ann Kloth
- Zainab Meredith
- Dumont Tadja Henriette

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