

**EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY POLICY, RESEARCH AND OUTREACH
(ETPRO) and CYBERWATCH HOSTS THE ANNUAL COOL CAREERS in
CYBERSECURITY for GIRLS SUMMIT
October 29th, 2010**

Careers Pathways in Cybersecurity to be discussed

CLARKSVILLE, MD (October 29, 2010) – Over 150 middle school girls became Celebrity Stalker Investigators (CSI) for a day to solve a cyberstalking crime. During the interactive cyber crime solving event, girls learned from women in companies and agencies throughout the state what it takes to navigate the professional pipeline in the vast fields of Cybersecurity and Information Assurance, as well as other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The event was held October 29, 2010 at the National Electronics Museum, in Linthicum, Maryland.

The event began with a cyber crime scenario video. The attendees were then broken up into small CSI teams of 10 and rotated around different “cyber tables” to gather clues to solve the cyber crime. Each table had a different cybersecurity activity led by a women professional in the field. The girls used the first part of each rotation to gather information through hands-on activities, and the remainder of the time was used to learn more about the career and how each representative entered the field. Girls learned more about the education skills needed, likes and dislikes, and salary ranges.

Cybersecurity activities this year included: malware, cryptography, pen testing, system engineering, steganography, and computer forensic. Representatives from NSA, SAIC, Boeing, ISC2, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ITT and CyberWatch.

“The annual event stems from the need to recruit more students into the field of cybersecurity, especially women who are underrepresented. Educators and security experts alike have identified the growing gap in cyber security workers as a major weakness for the nation. The field of Cybersecurity is very broad and kids, educators and parents need to know the plethora of choices in this field. Some of the girls might not be thrilled about programming but really enjoy cryptography. Digital Investigation has also peaked interest for students and the instructors,” shares Dr. Davina Pruitt-Mentle, The CyberWatch K12 Division PI.

For more information on the Annual Cool Careers Summit visit <http://www.edtechpolicy.org/cyberk12/index.html> or contact Davina Pruitt-Mentle at dpruitt@edtechpolicy.org . To learn more about CyberWatch K12 Division Programs and CyberWatch and to receive multi-media files and reports regarding its accomplishments, visit www.cyberwatchcenter.org or contact Dr. Costis Toregas, CyberWatch Marketing Director at toregas1@gwu.edu .