EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY POLICY, RESEARCH AND OUTREACH, NATIONAL CYBERWATCH AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND TO HOST THE ANNUAL COOL CAREERS in CYBERSECURITY FOR GIRLS WORKSHOP
November 14, 2012

Careers in Cybersecurity to be Explored

CLARKSVILLE, MD (October 28, 2012) – Developed to help students learn more about the skills necessary 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, Educational Technology Policy, Research and Outreach (ETPRO),the National CyberWatch Center, and the University of Maryland are hosting the *Annual Cool Careers in Cybersecurity for Girls Workshop* November 14th, 2012 at the Riggs Alumni Center, College Park, Maryland. 350 middle school girls, accompanied by parents and teachers attend the full day event. At the workshop, a Cyber Crime Scenario is presented to the girls. The attendees break off in to small CSI teams of 10-15 and rotate around different "cyber tables" to gather clues to solve the cyber crime. Each table has a different activity led by a women professional in the field. The girls use the first part of each rotation to gather a clue, and the remainder of the time is used to learn more about the career and how each representative entered the field. Girls find out more about the education skills needed, likes and dislikes and salary range. Activities include: cryptography, assembling a computer, steganography, penetration testing, and cell phone forensics.

"The annual event stems from the need to attract and retain women in the STEM workforce, and the growing need for cybersecurity professionals, particularly in this geographic location," shares Dr. Davina Pruitt-Mentle, Executive Director of ETPRO and the National CyberWatch Center K12 Division PI. Indeed, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 48 percent increase in jobs for computer software engineers and a 55 percent growth in jobs for network system and data communications analysts by 2018. Projections for Maryland mimic the same trend. While computer operators and computer programmers are projected to decrease, computer software engineers, network systems and data communications analysts, and network and computer systems administrators are projected to go up between 40 and 50%, and computer and information systems managers are projected to grow by 23%. Much of this is fueled by the growing IT industry, which is in particular demand in MD, DC, and VA, because of the large federal infrastructure including intelligence and Department of Defense government agencies and related contractors.

For more information on the Annual Cool Careers Event visit *http://www.edtechpolicy.org/cyberk12/c3workforcecareers.html* or contact Dr. Davina Pruitt-Mentle at dpruitt@edtechpolicy.org .