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UMd. 'Cool Careers' trying to turn girls onto cyber



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Move over, CSI.

More than 300 middle school girls across Maryland will have the chance to work as crime scene investigators Wednesday as part of an effort to get more women interested in cyber security careers.

As a part of the Annual Cool Careers in Cyber Security for Girls Workshop at the **University of Maryland**, College Park, students will gain advice from female professionals from companies throughout the region. The professionals will advise the students on what it takes to navigate the professional pipeline in the vast fields of cyber security, information assurance and digital forensics.

Teams will use digital forensics tools on cell phones, wireless data streams, hard drives and pictures to solve a cyber crime scenario.

"The Cool Careers in Cyber Security for Girls Workshop significantly contributes to increasing the number of women in this critical field, which is one of the core goals of the education activities led by the Maryland Cybersecurity Center," said [Michel Cukier](#), associate director for education at the Maryland Cybersecurity Center.

The annual event stems from the need to attract and retain women in the STEM workforce, and the growing need for cyber security professionals, particularly in the Maryland region, said [Davina Pruitt-Mentle](#), executive director of the National CyberWatch Center K12 Division PI.