

**NATIONAL CYBERWATCH CENTER HOSTS THE ANNUAL COOL CAREERS
in CYBERSECURITY FOR GIRLS WORKSHOP
November 13, 2013**

Careers in Cybersecurity Explored

COLLEGE PARK, Md., Nov. 13, 2013 The National CyberWatch Center in partnership with the University of Maryland College Park Maryland Cybersecurity Center (MC2), welcomed more than 300 middle school students at the Cool Careers in Cybersecurity for Girls Workshop sponsored by the National Science Foundation and Lockheed Martin (LMT).

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, students rotated to different stations and took part in hands-on activities ranging from solving identity theft cases of cybercrime, to penetration testing and cell phone forensics. Students were also afforded the unique opportunity to learn about the numerous career options in cybersecurity from established women in the business and government officials throughout the state of Maryland.

“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.

"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 **Dr. Michel Cukier**, Associate Director for Education at the Maryland Cybersecurity Center (MC2), "and we are excited to partner with NCC to offer this unique opportunity."

“As the demand for cyber security professionals continues to grow for the foreseeable future, it is important to provide students with the necessary information to explore the exciting opportunities in the cyber security field,” said **Chandra McMahon**, Vice President of Commercial Markets and Cyber Security at Lockheed Martin.

The National CyberWatch Center has hosted the annual event since 2005, impacting over 1600 girls from the MD, VA and DC area, with funding from the National Science Foundation.

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.