



**CAE**  
IN CYBERSECURITY  
COMMUNITY



**The Power of Community:** Increasing Student Engagement,  
Academic Success and Workforce Readiness Through  
Cybersecurity Clubs and Activities

**Palm Beach State College** Student Ethical Hackers Club (EHC)

2024 CAE Community Symposium



**CAE**  
IN CYBERSECURITY  
COMMUNITY

EHC Club

Vision

Building Community

Building Character

Building Competence

Training & Development

Digital Entrepreneurs

CyberForce Team

Cyber Demonstrations

BrainBowl Competitions

Cybersecurity Symposium

CyberWeek Conference

College & Univ. Partnerships

Cyber Industry Partnerships

Canvas Shell Database

Results: #2 In State of Florida



**Ethical Hackers Club**

Community Symposium



# Cybersecurity/IT Pathway Project: PBSC & SDPBC

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**SDPBC Representatives:** Anthony Asci and Moise Derosier  
 Palm Beach State College & School District of Palm Beach County



## Conclusions

### Conclusion Summary:

PBSC and SDPBC is excited about our participation in the Cybersecurity/IT Pathway grant collaborative initiative. In spite of many challenges and learning lessons our team at PBSC and SDPBC have adjusted throughout the year and stayed the course in terms of putting together events and activities since FALL 2022 and into SUMMER 2023 that will help us achieve the grant goals.

### Implications for Cybersecurity Education in Florida:

PBSC is committed to continue working with the SDPBC to continue creating curriculum pathways and future workforce preparedness for students within the Palm Beach County area. The Cybersecurity/IT industry and landscape will continue to grow exponentially within the Palm Beach County area and PBSC is in a strategic position from an education standpoint to formulate alliance and partnerships with the SDPBC, non-profit organizations, the government sector and private industry to ensure our students are fully workforce ready.

• **ITSEC Cybersecurity Evolution and Growth:** The Cybersecurity curriculum continues to expand at PBSC and we are committed to creating a strong foundation and infrastructure to prepare students for success in the Cybersecurity field. This will have tremendous implications for ensuring that our curriculum adapts to the changes within the Cybersecurity industry.

• **SDPBC Teacher Training Customized Training and Proficiency Levels:** Teachers have various backgrounds in SDPBC, so, our Cybersecurity trainings must address the different levels of teacher competence and capabilities from a customized standpoint. Some teachers are more advanced, such as those that work at the Cyber Academics. The strategy that focuses on customized learning for each teacher will have positive implications that ensure the teachers are provided the necessary Cybersecurity training for students in the SDPBC and beyond.

• **ITSEC Curriculum Evolution:** PBSC has re-developed and created 5+ courses in Cybersecurity within the last year. We are also coordinating with the SDPBC to build curriculum pathways on an ongoing basis. We will continue to partner with other academic institutions and form Cybersecurity alliances and partnerships in order to ensure our curriculum is competitive and current. The Cybersecurity industry continues to evolve, adapt and expand based on Cyber threats and Cyber risks, therefore we have a strategic game plan in place for continuous growth and development. This will have positive implications for our students and their future in the Cybersecurity field.

• **Ethical Hackers Club (EHC), Community Development and Impact:** At PBSC our Ethical Hackers Club (EHC) has been extremely instrumental, useful and impactful in creating a community of shared learning, friendship, mutual growth and development in Cybersecurity. Our students engage in shared Cyber activities, Cyber games, hands on challenges, Ethical hacking activities, as well as presentations and competitions with other academic institutions. The club also reaches students within the SDPBC who are interested in Cybersecurity. For example, one of our top performing students is a dual enrollment student from the SDPBC. The experiences students obtain in the club will have a tremendous impact that leads to workforce preparedness for students in the Cybersecurity field and the greater Palm Beach County area.

This project was supported by the Cybersecurity and IT Pathways Expansion grant from the Florida Department of Education through the Florida Center for Cyber Security at the University of South Florida, project number 291-1231C-2C001, funding authority 84-425C-D CRP65ACT ESSER II 84-425D & GEER II 84-425C, FAIN#: 8425C210062. More information at [cyberfla.org/pathways/](https://cyberfla.org/pathways/)

# Cybersecurity/IT Pathway Grant Activities: Results & Impact

## Introduction

The Cyber/IT Pathways project is a cooperative endeavor of Palm Beach State College and the School District of Palm Beach County (PBSC and SDPBC).

The goal of this one-year project was to increase the number of workers that are prepared to fill cybersecurity/information technology jobs by creating a model that is suitable for expansion, adoption, and sustainability/scalability in the state.

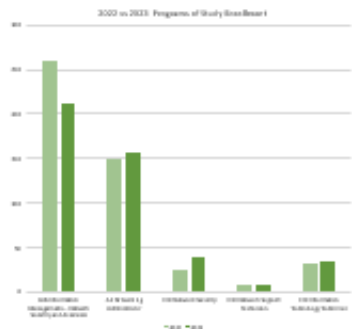
## Project Description

**OBJECTIVE 1.** Increase the number of students enrolled in SDPBC and PBSC Cyber/IT pathway programs by 5% in August 2023 as compared to August 2022;

**OBJECTIVE 2.** Increase the number of industry certifications and degrees earned by SDPBC and PBSC students programs by 5% in August 2023 as compared to August 2022;

**OBJECTIVE 3.** Create articulated curriculum that aligns instruction at SDPBC with course objectives at PBSC programs by August 2023; and

**OBJECTIVE 4.** Increase student job readiness through participation in experiential learning programs by at least 95% or targeted students by August 2023.



**Figure 1.** Graph of PBSC student enrollment based on Program of Study. (Updated Summer 2023)

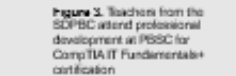
## Outcomes and Discussion



**Figure 2.** Teachers from the SDPBC tour PBSC campus during Professional Development training



**Figure 4.** PBSC Ethical Hackers Club (EHC) campus tour



**Figure 3.** Teachers from the SDPBC attend professional development at PBSC for CompTIA IT Fundamentals+ certification



**Figure 5.** SDPBC students attend PBSC Spring 2023 Cybersecurity Symposium

**Objective 1.** Increase in SDPBC Cybersecurity program

	August 2022	August 2023
Student Enrollment	400	1527

**Table 1.** Student enrollment in the SDPBC Cybersecurity program increased from August 2022 to August 2023 by over 280%

**Objective 2.** Increase in Industry certs and degrees

SDPBC Certs	SY2022	SY2023
SDPBC CompTIA IT Fundamentals+	60.2%	70.2%
MTA/ITS Cyber/Networking/Security exams	62	76

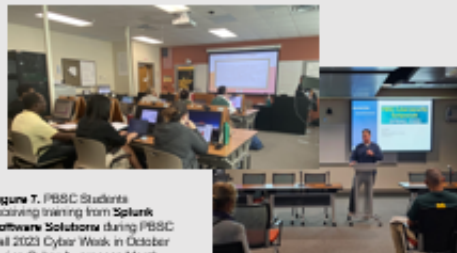
PBSC Certs	2022	2023
CompTIA A+	0	8
CompTIA Network+	0	3
CompTIA Security+	0	Boot Camp in Progress

**Objective 3.** Increase in Cybersecurity Curriculum & Pathway



**Figure 6.** 5 courses were redeveloped/created

**Objective 4.** Increase in Job readiness



**Figure 7.** PBSC Students receiving training from Splunk Software Solutions during PBSC Fall 2023 Cyber Week in October during Cyber Awareness Month

**Figure 8.** Job readiness training from Steve Lindsay at Xtec.com at the Spring 2023 Cybersecurity Symposium

NOTE: PBSC and SDPBC Curriculum Mapping Pathway Project ongoing and continuous at all times.



# Cyber Workforce Readiness & Cybersecurity Industry Partners

- Cyberbit
- Cyberhub
- CyberFlorida
- Splunk
- National Cyberleague (NCL)
- Florida College System (FCS)
- Discord
- USF
- FIU
- MDC



**Ethical Hackers Club**

Symposium