At the same time, the turbulence surrounding racial, ethnic and gender diversity issues dominated our collective social conscience and actions.

The National Cyber League (NCL) community took these difficulties to heart in 2020. Each year, we host the most inclusive, online, performance-based, learning-centered collegiate cybersecurity competition available to students - and this year we went even further.

The NCL community has access to more content, learning tools, guidance and career support than ever before. Our NCL Player Ambassadors, led by CryptoKait, produces six days of NCL-related content a week, through blogs and live, interactive video coaching. Composed entirely of dedicated players and coaches, this team’s unyielding passion and energy represents everything NCL stands for. NCL’s technology partner, Cyber Skyline, continues to develop new thresholds, mapping challenges and scouting reports to the NIST NICE Framework to better highlight the equivalency of the NCL competition to real-world needs for recruiters, talent scouts and hiring managers.

In particular, NCL was pleased to present to students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) scholarships to practice and play in the 2020 Fall NCL Season. NCL worked with faculty and coaches to ensure the students had the best opportunity to succeed.

When leaders from regional and national NSF ATE Cybersecurity Centers and other institutions formed the National Cyber League in 2011, our vision was, and remains, to provide an ongoing virtual training ground for students to develop, practice, and validate their cybersecurity knowledge and skills using next-generation high-fidelity simulation environments, based on industry-relevant learning objectives.

The partnership with HBCUs was one of several groundbreaking initiatives this year. NCL partnered with the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), along with AFCEA Rocky Mountain Chapter, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and Pikes Peak Community College to hold a one-day virtual “social Capture-the-Flag (CTF)” exercise. In addition, NCL has partnered with Missouri-based CyberUp, expanding our role in engaging not only high school students but also middle school students. Another exciting engagement is with Southern California through National University, with NCL and Cyber Skyline serving as the content and platform partner for the SoCal Cyber Cup Challenge to be held in 2021 for middle schools, high schools, community colleges and universities in the region.
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We are mission-driven to expand the NCL community through the inclusion of more schools, more partners, and more NCL offerings, and more resources to enable players to be successful. NCL embraces, supports, and encourages any student with a passion for learning, whether in high school or college, those taking a full course load or just one class, students just beginning their journey or already in love with CTFs, and students of any age. NCL and our Player Ambassadors are proud to support and celebrate diversity and inclusion of any participant regardless of ethnicity, race, gender and sexual orientation, religion, age and disability.

Critical to NCL success is growing our community of coaches who teach, mentor and support students. NCL is a sport, and good coaching can make all the difference for the success of anyone or any team playing a sport. Coaches are also critical to the integrity of the game. As Commissioner of NCL, I dedicate my time to ensuring coaches are given the tools and best practices they need for their players to be successful.

Finally, NCL is engaging with academic, industry and government partners that share our vision of providing engaging, entertaining, measurable, and scalable methods of learning to enlist and inspire a new generation of cybersecurity professionals in a way that makes learning feel like playing. We invite you to join us in this enormously energizing, and of course productive, endeavor!

Our job at NCL is to give you the best cybersecurity competition experience.

NCL is truly “A community where cybersecurity is a passion”.

NCL is a united community of “heroes” - the players, coaches, player ambassadors, and all those supporting NCL’s common mission - advancing the skills of students at every stage of cybersecurity knowledge, through hands-on solution of clearly defined hacker challenges.
The Need For Ethical Hackers

Every 39 seconds
- a hacker attack
  (Clark School, University of Maryland)

1.8 million
unfilled cybersecurity
jobs globally by 2022
(Center for Strategic & International Studies, 2019)

503,316
job openings in the U.S.
(CyberSeek)

The NCL Game Solution

In 2020...

12,500+
players annually

620+
academic institutions
participating annually

State-to-State Participation

cyberskyline.com/data/map/students
More Students Served Every Year

College & High School Participation

- 385 4-year colleges
- 243 2-year colleges
- 9,592 college players
- 1,874 high school players

75% of CAE schools participate in NCL

71 out of 98 CAE-2Y (2-year CAE colleges) participate

127 out of 152 CAE-CD (Cyber Defense Colleges) participate

16 out of 25 CAE-R (Research Colleges) participate

NATIONAL CYBER LEAGUE (NCL)
Number of Participants (Individual-Based Events)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Season</td>
<td>939</td>
<td>1,368</td>
<td>2,153</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>1,891</td>
<td>3,461</td>
<td>3,350</td>
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<td>Spring Season</td>
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<td>5,903</td>
<td>6,607</td>
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Contact
info@nationalcyberleague.org

nationalcyberleague.org
NCL Encourages Diversity

NCL Players by Gender
- Male: 73.9%
- Female: 22.1%
- I prefer not to answer: 3.3%

NCL Players by Age
- 13-15: 73.0%
- 16-18: 12.7%
- 19-20: 5.4%
- 21-22: 0.8%
- 23-24: 0.2%
- 25-26: 3.1%
- 27-30: 6.8%
- 31-34: 14.5%
- 35-38: 8.3%
- 39-40: 1.1%
- 41-44: 0.2%
- 45+: 0.7%

NCL Players by Race
- White: 56.9% (NCL), 73.0% (US Population)
- Black / African American: 8.3% (NCL), 12.7% (US Population)
- Asian: 14.5% (NCL), 5.4% (US Population)
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 1.1% (NCL), 0.8% (US Population)
- Preferred not to answer: 11.5% (NCL), 0.2% (US Population)
- Multiracial: 6.8% (NCL), 3.1% (US Population)

* 16.4% of players are Hispanic/Latino

Contact
info@nationalcyberleague.org
The amazing family of NCL Player Ambassadors

CryptoKait started it all. After playing the NCL games for the first time, she realized how great it would be to have more support from others who had participated before. They could give advice and encouragement, offer tips and techniques and generally be ambassadors on behalf of the students. Our heroes are shown below!