CAROLINA
CYBER
NETWORK

Developing Talent | Protecting Our Future

An innovative workforce development initiative
among select North Carolina Cybersecurity
educational institutions working together
to meet the growing talent needs of
North Carolina's public agencies
and private businesses.

We are the Carolina Cyber Network

Cyber attacks threaten to weaken our nation and fundamentally alter our citizen's trust in our government and its institutions.

This is the number one existential threat to our way of life.

There is a profound demand for increased investment in the human talent, technologies, and services needed to defend and ensure resilience for our public and private resources. In North Carolina there are an estimated 20,000 unfilled cybersecurity positions. The Carolina Cyber Network (CCN) was formed to address this demand – the demand for a dramatic increase in the volume and talent of work-ready cyber professionals.

The CCN focuses on building the scale and capabilities of our state's community colleges, four-year institutions and custom academy programs. These institutions and their students will have access to leading technical curricula, immersive state-of-the-art technical labs and cyber ranges, and the ability to deliver holistic essential life skills development. Ultimately, we are focused on entry-level work-ready talent development and to improve talent in support of securing critical sectors of North Carolina's economy; e.g., agriculture, financial services, health care, K-12 education, and service-member transition.

The CCN was founded in early 2020 as a partnership between Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) and Montreat College. Launched in earnest with a $3.25mm investment from the State, and a new commitment to an additional $11mm, the CCN initiative is expanding beyond the initial partnership of 11 colleges and universities across North Carolina..

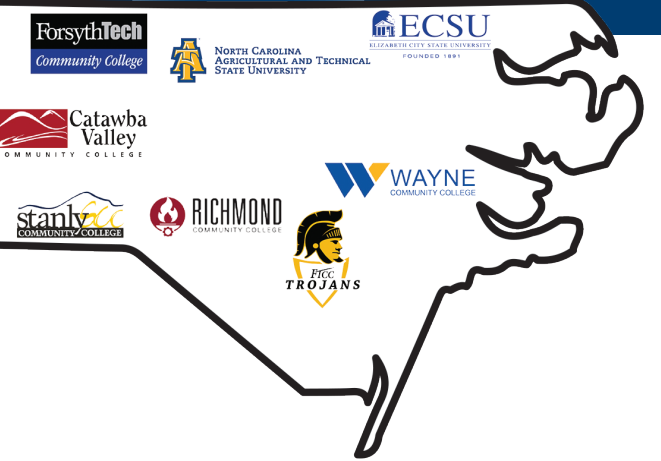The network now includes Blue Ridge, Catawba Valley, Forsyth Tech, Gaston, Richmond, Stanly, and Wayne Community Colleges along with NC A&T University and Elizabeth City State University. All of these schools have partnered to support each other with talent, shared resources, aligned curricula, and in many other ways to focus on developing increasing numbers of work-ready cybersecurity talent through excellent instruction, labs, and ranges simulating real-world challenges, and actual cybersecurity engagements and services.

We passionately engage corporations, economic sectors, and government to satisfy their employment and cybersecurity needs. We look forward to engaging with you in support of this vital mission.

NC Legislature Funds CCN Launch

The CCN leveraged initial legislative funding to accomplish aggressive objectives in our inaugural year. Highlights include:

Member schools were funded to enhance their cybersecurity education programs; for example, Stanly Community College extending NDG labs for other schools, Forsyth Tech Community College for K-12, Elizabeth City State University for aviation, NC A&T in Manufacturing, and Blue Ridge Community College for Agriculture.

Served partners and employers with immersive, demanding cybersecurity academies (with 100% placement of graduates): Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Road to Hire, Loews, Red Ventures, Ally Bank, and others.

Leveraged shared resources such a cyber labs, cyber ranges, curricula, and instructors for the collective benefit of member schools. Students received opportunities for real-world experience and development of true work-ready talent.

Students in various academies achieved over 100 individual industry certifications and participated in Cyber competitions.

Professional Life Skills and Essential Life Skills programs developed with CCN funding are critical to the career success of our graduates, not just graduating or getting a job.

Defined detailed plans and facilities for the Security Service Center (SSC), which is on schedule for initial operational capability in Q1 2022. SSC provides services to public and private organizations, while providing real-world experience for students.
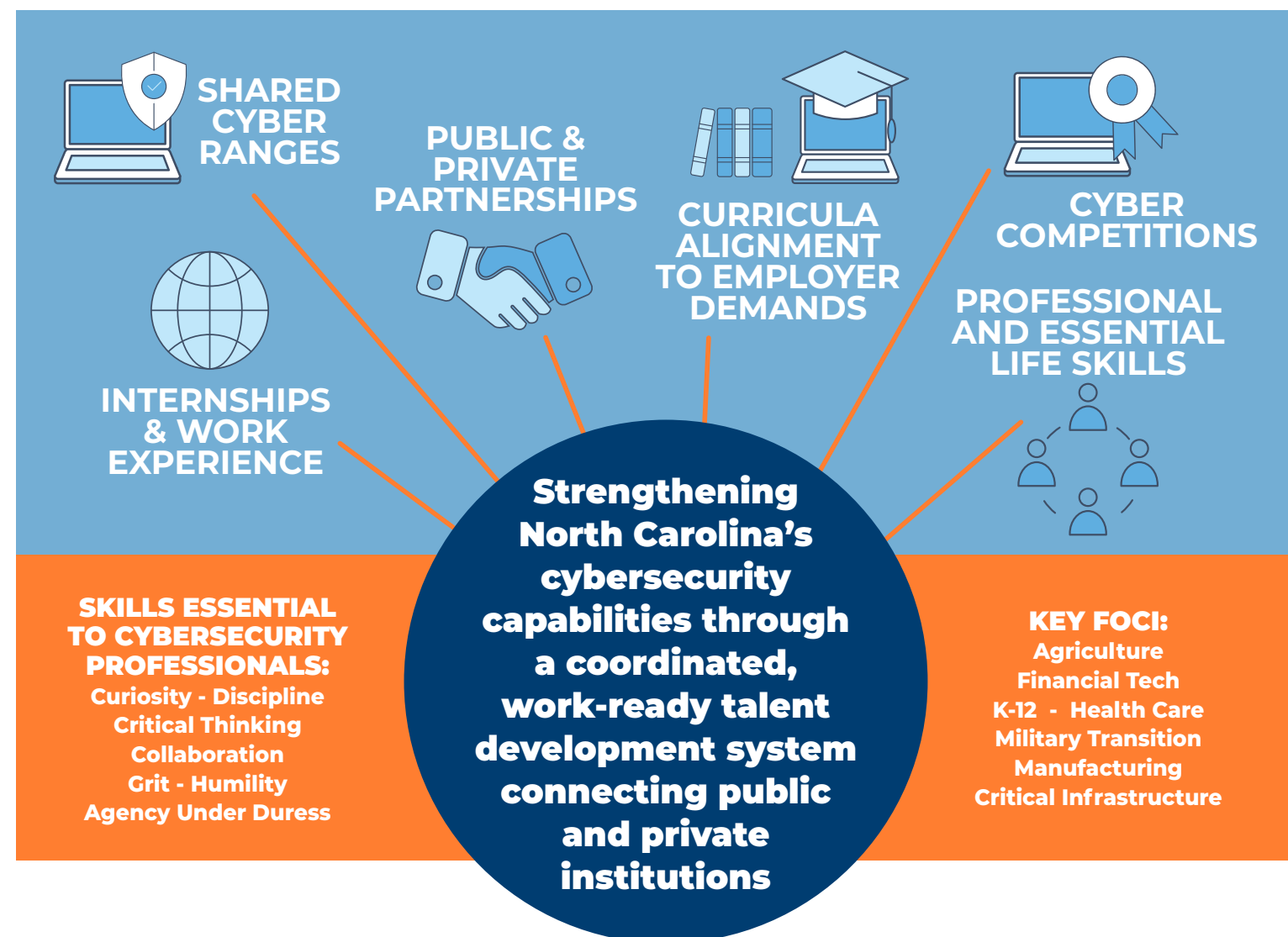
KEY OBJECTIVES

Grow our student population from 800 in 2018 to over 3,000 at program maturity

Increase the number of Industry Certifications obtained by students

Grow the number of graduates who obtain employment at or above prevailing wages

Increase the number of CAE designated schools (Center of Academic Excellence)

Increase the number of member schools, currently 11, with another four ready to join

SHARED CYBER RANGES

PUBLIC & PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

CURRICULA ALIGNMENT TO EMPLOYER DEMANDS

CYBER COMPETITIONS

INTERNSHIPS & WORK EXPERIENCE

PROFESSIONAL AND ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS

Strengthening North Carolina's cybersecurity capabilities through a coordinated, work-ready talent development system connecting public and private institutions

SKILLS ESSENTIAL TO CYBERSECURITY PROFESSIONALS:
Curiosity - Discipline
Critical Thinking
Collaboration
Grit - Humility
Agency Under Duress

KEY FOCI:
Agriculture
Financial Tech
K-12 - Health Care
Military Transition
Manufacturing
Critical Infrastructure

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Formed to create and deliver a first-of-its-kind, national demonstration project enabling a high-performance, holistic cybersecurity workforce pipeline for public and private entities.

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