

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CYBER FOUNDATIONS COMPETITION OPPORTUNITY

Thirty schools expected to compete in the 7-week security competition

Sponsored by Advance IT Minnesota and the Minnesota Cybersecurity Careers Consortium

Supported by Minnesota Department of Education and the State of Minnesota Office of Enterprise Technology

Advance IT Minnesota contact:

Sharon Boerbon Hanson

Associate Executive Director, Marketing and Operations

Sharon.Hanson@metrostate.edu

612-659-7227

www.advanceitmn.org



CYBER FOUNDATIONS COMPETITION
Cybersecurity challenge for high school students

Cybersecurity is one of the most exciting, challenging and financially rewarding careers available to young people today. The U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics projects there will be over 155,000 job openings for individuals with these important skills between now and 2018; the 2nd fastest job growth rate in the U.S.

How do we help students develop the level of awareness, interest and preparation needed to pursue this opportunity and fill urgently needed roles in our economy and national defense? According to recent research and reports, the answer lies in providing opportunities that get students engaged in actual career-related activities, particularly gaming. We throw in a little competitive juice for good measure.

The US Cyber Foundations competition is all about student success. According to SANS (www.sans.org) the creator of the competition in partnership with US Cyber Challenge (www.uscyberchallenge.org): "*Cyber Foundations is the most effective STEM competition other than the FIRST robotics programs. Kids who participate get excited, spend time, and gain a lot of valuable knowledge. The program does not require significant extra effort by educators, but educators can greatly improve the success of their students if they choose to participate.*"

Advance IT Minnesota along with an emerging business partnership known as the Minnesota Cybersecurity Careers Consortium are sponsoring schools to compete in this event at no cost.

Schools may register at <http://ia.advanceitmn.org/cyberfoundations> by March 9, 2012. Online learning begins March 1 for registered teams; first challenge is on March 16. More information is on the site.

About Advance IT Minnesota:

Advance IT Minnesota is a Center of Excellence within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities hosted by Metropolitan State University. The Center works to increase the concentration of IT employment in Minnesota by partnering with the IT industry, educators and learners to develop a more robust IT workforce in the state. The Cyber Foundations competition is one of several activities designed to promote IT career awareness, interest and readiness.