Laredo College, Laredo, TX

Laredo College is nestled on the banks of the Rio Grande along the Texas-Mexican border. Founded in 1947, Laredo College is a two-campus district serving the diverse needs of a growing community. The College's Network & Cybersecurity Technology program spearheaded the efforts to achieve CAE-2Y designation in 2018. The Cybersecurity program is diverse and challenging, comprised of Microsoft Server, Cisco, Linux, Forensics, and Cyber Defense curricula. Program topics are dispersed over two stackable certificates culminating in an Associate of Applied Science degree. The program is also a Microsoft and Cisco Academy.

In Spring 2019, the program will launch a Cybersecurity Institute specializing in deep web studies and cyber defense research. The primary goal of the Institute is to produce a high skilled workforce capable of combatting all forms of cyber-attacks. A strictly controlled dark network will include firewalls, VPNs, and the latest in core and access layer cybersecurity technologies. The Institute will introduce and sponsor cybersecurity training programs and workshops to create more effective pedagogies for cybersecurity instruction at both the high school and college level. This highly innovative STEM educational pathway will produce highly skilled individuals who are trained in multiple cyber environments and will be better prepared for direct placement in the workforce.

Also envisioned for 2019 are the expansion of program instruction into UAS drone technology (to explore applications for border and crime scene surveillance), expansion into cyber operations, and creation of Enhanced Skills Certificates. All program enhancements are intended to better prepare program graduates and the community for successful workforce employment in cyber defense occupations.

DESIGNATIONS

- **CAE – Cyber Defense 2-Year Education**

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