California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) is forging a cybersecurity pathway for qualified professionals to enter the workforce. Our efforts begin at the K-12 level where we have served over 21,000 participants in our local community through outreach efforts, heavily impacting K-12 by our annual GenCyber camp. Data has shown that we have increased the interest in cybersecurity education and careers by 81% and increased general interest in college by 91%. More than 1000 middle school and high school girls have been served by our camp, with the majority of our participants coming from a minority background.

CSUSB is also leading the Community College Cyber Pilot Program (C3P) addressing the needs of veterans and others at the community college level through a grant from the National Science Foundation. Modeled after our successful SFS CyberCorps® program, C3P will retool returning students in cyber and promote cybersecurity curriculum at the community college level. CSUSB’s SFS program is in the top 3 in the nation regarding the output of new cyber talent for the federal workforce and #1 for diversity with more than 40% female and 48% from minority backgrounds. The innovation and success of the NICE Challenge program, housed at CSUSB, has now prompted the development of a National Cyber Range for all schools across the nation. Currently, more than 300 colleges and universities are using the NICE Challenge project to assist in curriculum development and assessing the in-demand knowledge, skills, and abilities that are needed in today’s cyber workforce.

Serving as the leader of the CAE Community and one of 4 National Resource Centers in the country, CSUSB has provided numerous resources and services to hundreds of CAE designated schools while mentoring others through their designation process. By propelling the number of designated CAE schools by more than 100% since 2014, we are able to graduate more cybersecurity professionals moving into the workforce. The CAE program has hosted an annual Virtual Career Fair, where hundreds of students from CAE schools connect with employers across the country for jobs, internships, and research opportunities.

Using our position as a leader in cybersecurity education, our program at CSUSB has been able to heavily impact the national shortage of cybersecurity professionals in the U.S. workforce.