University of Maine System
Board of Trustees Meeting
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University of Maine System
National Security Agency Center of
Academic Excellence for Information
Assurance Education
What is the NSA CAE/IA?

– The CAE IA/Cybersecurity designation is based on academic criteria for Cybersecurity education and affords each CAE institution the opportunity to distinguish its strengths in specific focus areas

– These criteria benefit not only the institution, but also students, employers and hiring managers throughout the Nation

– The designation serves in the absence of an evolving accreditation standard and body
What is the Purpose of CAE/IA designation?

– The purpose of the National CAE designation program is to promote higher education in IA and Cybersecurity and prepare a growing number of IA/Cybersecurity professionals to meet the need to reduce vulnerabilities in the Nation’s networks

– The initial National CAE in IA Education (CAE/IAE) program was started by NSA in 1998, with DHS joining as a partner in 2004 in response to the President’s National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace
UMS – NSA CAE/IA

What is the Significance of this Recognition?

- UMS is now designated as a national leader in Cybersecurity Education
- UMS is the first higher education organization recognized in Maine
- UMS is the first university system in the United States to achieve recognition of a distributed (UMS system-wide) CAE/IA Cybersecurity
What is the Maine Cyber Security Cluster?

- MCSC located on USM’s Portland Campus is the only Cybersecurity “Range” and Laboratory of its kind on in Maine and one of the few in New England.

- MCSC is funded by MTI, MEIF, and National Science Foundation and acts as a focal point for Cybersecurity applied research and education in Maine and beyond.
UMS – NSA CAE/IA

What is the Academic and Curricular Impact?

– The development and implementation of a collaborative/shared Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity as a UMS-wide offering and joint effort among partnering universities (currently UMA, UMFK, UM, USM) planned for implementation Fall Semester 2015

– Will build upon curricular foundation established at UMFK in 2003 and expanding across the UMS
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How can the CAE/IA Recognition be Leveraged?

– “Certified” to develop relationships with government and military agencies
– Entitled to Cybersecurity Scholarships for Students
– Preferred status with business and industry collaborations and contracts
– Maintain advantage over encroaching academic competitors
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What are the Next Steps?

– Implement MCSC Strategic and Business plan with CAE/IA status designed for sustained growth of workforce and economic development

– Roll out new academic programs as appealing, high-demand, and lucrative certificates/majors/degrees for students

– Pursue newly availed funding/support opportunities
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How can UMS Presidents and CAOs help?

– Adopt the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity Online Consortium Program MOU that will pave the way for collaborative/shared academic programs

– Expedite deliberation and approve recommendation of the forthcoming Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity Online Consortium Program proposal

– Promote evolution of accreditation standards
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