*CYBER*MONTANA

Internal Update to University of Montana Leadership

As CyberMontana is poised to enter our 3rd biennium, we want to provide an update on our latest initiatives as well as a preview of our activities leading into the 2025 legislative session. **Starting from our initial allocation in 2021, CyberMontana has grown to provide cybersecurity education and training opportunities to a wide range of stakeholders**, including the non-technical workforce, professionals currently in the field, and educators who are leading efforts to develop the next generation of cyber defense professionals.

Of note is the **newly-executed Memorandum of Understanding between Missoula College and the Montana Department of Emergency Services** to provide on-the-ground support for the federal State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). We plan an aggressive start in this partnership as we execute outreach efforts to public entities across Montana, including municipalities, counties, K-12 public schools, and special districts such as water, fire, hospital, and library districts.

Our **foundational work** in non-technical security awareness training, upskilling, STEM camps and early college opportunities for K-12 students is **ongoing**, as is our cybersecurity outreach to rural areas of Montana.

Tom Gallagher
Dean and Professor, Missoula College
Associate Vice Provost, Two-year Education and Workforce Development

Dianne Burke
Clinical Assistant Professor, Cybersecurity
Director, CyberMontana

IN THIS ISSUE

State and Local
CYBERSECURITY GRANT

We are pleased to share the news that CyberMontana is now the coordinator of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) for Montana. This program connects state and local government entities with cybersecurity education and improvement opportunities through programs offered by CyberMontana, including cybersecurity education, upskilling, network monitoring, and endpoint protection.

The SLCGP is a multi-year Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) initiative and provides state, tribal and local governments, including school, fire, water and other special districts, with opportunities to address cybersecurity risks and threats to information systems. SLCGP funding is distributed to state emergency management agencies. **Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (MT DES) allocated $300,000 of this funding to CyberMontana** for personnel to coordinate the program. MT DES will use additional SLCGP funding provide low-cost or subsidized cybersecurity options to Montana communities.

The options that CyberMontana will **offer** include **Security Awareness Training (SAT)**, **upskilling programs** to help more professionals expand their cybersecurity skills, **endpoint protection** through a partnership with SentinelOne, and **network traffic monitoring** through the Public Infrastructure Security Cyber Education System (PISCES) and the UM Strategic Operations Center (SOC).

We plan to implement a **vigorous outreach program** to state, local and tribal governments and public K-12 schools beginning in December 2024.

Cyber
CLINICS

Strengthening Community Cybersecurity

UM and CyberMontana are partnering with CSMI and Accelerate Montana to provide community-based Cyber Clinics throughout the state. The sessions target business owners, community leaders, public sector officials, and the general public. Clinic topics cover best practices in cybersecurity, including secure password management, working from home, data safety, and social media protection.

The clinics use a mixture of presentations and hands-on activities, including time for attendees to ask questions. The overarching theme of the clinics is "security by default" and they emphasize proactive cybersecurity practices. Participants gain the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure that safe security behaviors are the default in their daily lives and work.

The **first four Cyber Clinics were held in November**, with clinics at UM Western on Nov. 12, Missoula College on Nov. 13, at Salish Kootenai College on Nov. 14 and at the Lincoln County Campus of Flathead Valley Community College on Nov. 19.

Five more clinics are planned across the state for the remainder of 2024, with 18 tentatively planned in 2025. **The 2024 clinics encompass seven counties and one Tribal reservation.** They also include two online clinics which are available to participants statewide. In 2025, the clinics are planned to reach 15 Montana counties and all seven Tribal reservations.

CSMI has developed clinic content in partnership with CyberMontana and will lead the clinics. Accelerate Montana will assist with marketing, outreach, and onsite support during individual clinics.

To **register for a clinic, <u>click here</u>**.

2024 CYBER CLINIC SCHEDULE
ALL CLINICS BEGIN AT 10 A.M. AND END AT 3 P.M.

| NOVEMBER 12 *UM WESTERN* DILLON	NOVEMBER 13 *MISSOULA COLLEGE* MISSOULA	NOVEMBER 14 *SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE* PABLO	NOVEMBER 19 *LINCOLN COUNTY CAMPUS - FVCC* LIBBY
DECEMBER 2 *BITTERROOT COLLEGE* HAMILTON	DECEMBER 4 *HELENA COLLEGE* HELENA	DECEMBER 5 UNIV OF PROVIDENCE - *LEWISTOWN* LEWISTOWN	NOVEMBER 22 DECEMBER 18 VIA ZOOM

Raising Security
AWARENESS

The CyberMontana Security Awareness Training (SAT) program provides **practical information on essential cybersecurity practices geared to non-technical workers** across the state through a program of short asynchronous online lessons. SAT aims to reduce cybersecurity threats across Montana by raising employee awareness of the best cybersecurity practices. The SAT program also offers interactive in-person training, which is delivered by CyberMontana staff and tailored to the client's specific security needs. Recent in-person clients include the Helena Association of Realtors.

Total Lessons Offered to SAT Clients by Year
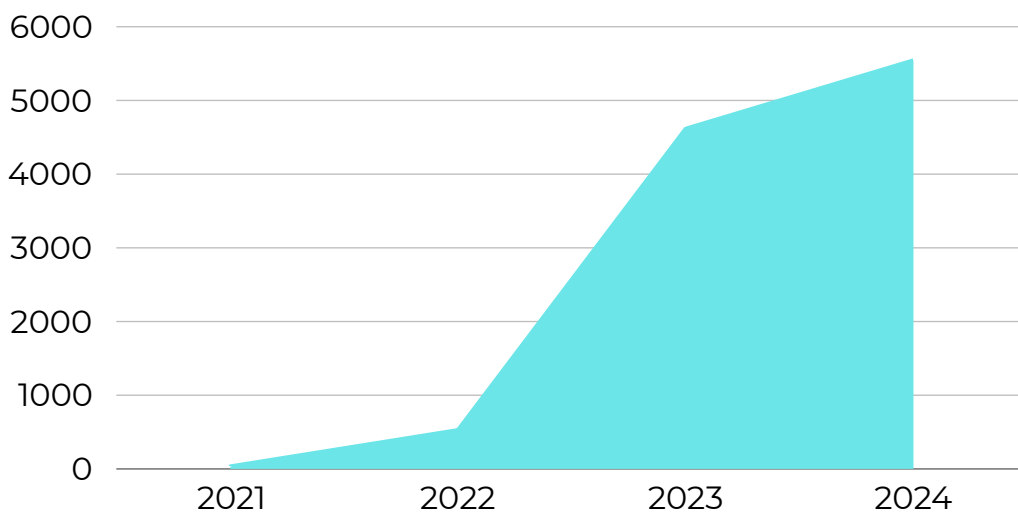
"The monthly trainings are brief but engaging and informative, which helps encourage my team to complete each course."

Current SAT Client

Almost 90 percent of data breaches are caused by human error*. SAT gives team members the tools they need to avoid these errors and keep data secure. Participants learn to recognize the ways cyber threat actors may try to deceive them and how to avoid these threats.

In early 2025 **CyberMontana will offer SAT to staff and faculty at all University of Montana affiliates, including UM Western, Montana Tech, Helena College and Highlands College.** In 2023, CyberMontana provided SAT to about 2,000 staff and faculty at UM, with 74 percent of participants completing the training, the highest percentage ever.

Each month, **we offer a demo lesson for new and potential SAT users and clients.** Use the QR code to try our SAT demo for November, which focuses on multi-factor authentication.

You're Invited!
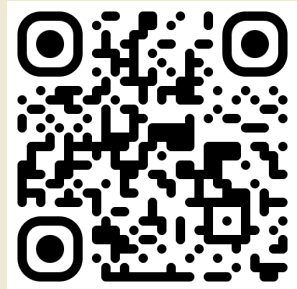
Tessian, Hancock, J. (2022, January). The psychology of human error. *Tessian*.
https://www.tessian.com/resources/psychology-of-human-error-2022/

Training Cyber
PROFESSIONALS

Cyber Rapid Training

The Cyber Rapid Training Certificate of Technical Studies (CTS) program provides **accelerated cybersecurity education opportunities for adult learners**, including workers pivoting to cybersecurity or IT careers and professionals in these fields looking to upskill and progress.

Students work through four classes over a semester - all delivered through an asynchronous online format – to earn their CTS. The 12 credits students earn through the program can be applied towards an A.A.S. or Bachelor's degree at University of Montana and prepare them to earn the necessary credentials many cybersecurity positions.

CyberMontana partners with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) to recruit students through DLI's Job Service Centers and Registered Apprenticeship Program and provide financial support to those in the rapid training program.

Since its inception in 2022, **21 students have earned their CTS through the program.** Rapid training opened professional opportunities for this growing group, as well as developing new cybersecurity talent to meet Montana's needs.

Montana Department of LABOR & INDUSTRY

"The completed training benefits my employer because it provided me with training and knowledge on ways to make our network more secure and assisted in adding to our Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan."

Current Cybrary User

Online Professional Development with Cybrary

CyberMontana offers a **cybersecurity education opportunity for private and public sector employees** to receive professional upskilling training through Cybrary, an online cybersecurity learning platform.

The program provides an unlimited one-year Cybrary license. Courses **align with the 52 cybersecurity work roles outlined by the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies.** In three years, CyberMontana served 142 professionals through this program, who accumulated more than 1,500 training hours in Cybrary.

College of Business

Almost $1 million was allocated to the UM College of Business to help launch the B. S. in Cybersecurity under the direction of Dr. Suzanne Tilleman. Current enrollment in the program is 45 declared majors, which is higher than initial projections.

HB 10 funding is divided between construction of a Cyber Operations Center learning lab, recruitment and payroll for additional faculty, instructional design for new courses, professional development for cybersecurity faculty, and scholarships for students in the program.

Security Operations Center

The UM Security Operations Center (SOC) is part of the UM Information Security Office led by Chief Information Officer Zach Rossmiller and Chief Information Security Officer Jonathan Neff. The SOC manages real-time security for the University and, through the PISCES program, trains cybersecurity students to monitor and investigate anomalies in network traffic. The SOC provides Endpoint Detection and Response protection to UM devices through the SentinelOne application.

Policy Academy

The Policy Academy is tasked with providing cybersecurity policy support to critical infrastructure sectors through tabletop security exercises that walk participants through cybersecurity scenarios while identifying response options. Our April, 2024 TTX for the electrical grid included Northwestern Energy, the Montana Electric Cooperative Association (comprising 25 co-ops across Montana, and other electrical providers in the Pacific Northwest.

In collaboration with CSMI, the Policy Academy also provides grant writing services and cybersecurity clinics geared to the non-technical workforce.

CyberMontana Outreach Summary

Program	Progress		
	Since Inception	YTD 2024	
Montana Cyber Range	520	179	Number of Participants
Cyber Rapid Training	21	7	Number of Completions
Professional Upskilling	142	23	Number of Participants
Security Awareness Training	5,543	928	Number of Lessons Offered
STEM/GenCyber Camps	578	187	Number of Students

CyberMontana continues to invest its budget in expanding cybersecurity education and opportunities in Montana, with current spending at expected levels. The organization has also restructured its staff to improve efficiency and hired multiple new staff – including graduate assistants from University of Montana - to provide the expertise necessary to meet CyberMontana's goals.

HB 10 Financial Report (11.8.24*)

	Expenses FY24	Expenses FY25	Budget FY25	Budget Remaining
College of Business	$223,297	$26,902	$772,803	$745,901
CyberMontana	$878,834	$302,515	$1,503,671	$1,228,155
Policy Academy	$299,660	$297,092	$856,712	$559,619
Security Operations Center	$478,315	$467,841	$1,124,029	$656,189
Grand Total	$1,880,105	$1,094,350	$4,284,215	$3,189,865

*UMDW can lag 1-3 weeks

In
SUMMARY

CyberMontana provides this **newsletter monthly, which summarizes key initiatives and achievements of CyberMontana and fiscal information on HB 10.** Among the key achievements for November are:

CyberMontana became the coordinator for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grants Program for Montana.

CyberMontana and CSMI began offering a **series of Cyber Clinics to educate business owners, community leaders and government officials** about cybersecurity best practices.

CyberMontana continues to raise non-technical cybersecurity awareness through the Security Awareness Training program, which has offered 5,543 lessons for 3,570 training hours.

CyberMontana is **building cybersecurity professionals through the online professional development program** where 142 participants have studied for more than 1,500 hours.

www.cybermontana.org

MISSOULA COLLEGE
National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD)
River Campus | 1205 E. Broadway Missoula, Montana 59802

CYBER MONTANA