

# WiCyS MONTANA

Issue No. 2

March 2024



## STUDY SHOWS YOUNG WOMEN SHY AWAY FROM CYBER CAREERS

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## HELLO AND WELCOME!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Women in CyberSecurity - Montana Chapter newsletter! We're thrilled to have you on board as we embark on this exciting journey to promote the growth and empowerment of women in the cybersecurity field.



## WHO WE ARE

The Montana Affiliate Chapter of Women in CyberSecurity (WiCyS) is officially launched under the banner of CyberMontana. Our mission is to recruit, retain, and advance women in cybersecurity, building a strong gender-diverse workforce. CyberMontana is dedicated to accelerating this mission throughout the state, guiding and supporting women in advancing their cybersecurity careers and passions.

**Call out text for something important!**

**MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS PG 4**

### MISSION:

Empowering and leading women in cybersecurity into diverse career pathways, cultivating an inclusive workforce, and enhancing female presence in leadership roles.

### VISION:

Creating a collaborative cybersecurity community that fosters mentorship, advocacy, and knowledge sharing.

## CONTACTS INFORMATION

Local Chapter Name - WiCys Montana  
Point of Contact Name  
Email  
Phone

## MORE INFORMATION

Visit <https://www.wicys.org> to check out all the benefits and see what's waiting for you!

# WiCyS MONTANA

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MEMBERSHIP

March 2024

## Membership

Males, females, and non-binary individuals are welcome to join our Montana Chapter of WiCyS. Our focus will follow our mission and vision statements, focusing on females in Cybersecurity and IT related fields. Our aim is to provide a safe, supporting environment for underrepresented populations. Membership codes are from officers and faculty members upon request. In February/March, WiCyS will update their software, at which point we will be able to track who has accessed their membership.

## Participation Requirements

Students requesting memberships codes must first turn in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU will lay out requirements that accompany the membership. These include:

- Attend two meetings per MOU year.
- Attend one activity per academic year.\*
- Provide a written evaluation/testimonial addressing the impact of your membership on your cybersecurity role. The evaluation will be due annually by May 15th.

*\*Students who are web focused rather than hardware focused may work on flyers and web design.*

## Future Planning

### 2024 Cyber Challenge

The date has been set for March 25-29, with an exact date/time to be determined. Students from Miles College will create marketing materials. Look for more information soon!

### Planning for the 2025 Annual Conference in Texas!

This past year, student scholarship requests occurred September 2023 - November 2023, with a late application period ending December 2023. Students must have a scholarship to attend WiCyS 2024. The WiCyS leadership team will provide information on 2025 Conference attendance as soon as it is available.

2024 Conference registration for in-person and virtual attendance for non-students will open Monday, February 19, 2024, at 10 am CT.

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**Males, females, and non-binary individuals are welcome to join our Montana Chapter of WiCyS.**

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The Montana Chapter offers a platform for students to connect, learn, and grow in the field. Explore mentorship opportunities and training programs and connect with seasoned professionals passionate about supporting the next generation.

Membership codes are available to students to assist in covering the membership cost. Students should contact their local higher institution IT Program Director for more information on membership registration or to inquire about starting a student group at your campus.





# WiCys MONTANA

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MEET THE OFFICERS

March 2024

## PRESIDENT

Dianne Burke, a Cybersecurity faculty member at Missoula College and Director of CyberMontana, brings hands-on



expertise. She's taught networking, security, and computer forensics widely. Formerly a forensic analyst, Dianne specialized in ESI collection, assisting cases across the U.S. With degrees from Rice University, the University of Houston, and the University of Montana, she's now a doctoral student at the University of Montana, embodying a dedication to ongoing learning in cybersecurity.



## VICE PRESIDENT

Ronda Black, currently serving as Tenure Faculty and the Program Director of IT & Cybersecurity at Gallatin College MSU,

brings a wealth of experience, leadership, and technical acumen to any IT or Educational role. Her work has resulted in Gallatin College MSU's recent NCAE-C Designation by the National Security Agency. Ronda holds a Bachelor's degree in MIS from Franklin University and dual Associate of Applied Business degrees from Clark State Community College. Ronda received the 2020 Gallatin College Merit Award for her significant contributions to education.

## TREASURER

Nancy Swope, a tech instructor at Miles Community College for 26 years, graduated from Black Hills State University. Based on



her family ranch in Miles City, MT, Nancy has taught diverse courses like Cisco Networking, Programming, and Business Software at MCC. She held leadership roles as Division Chair, MCC Faculty Association President, and played key roles in Leadership Miles City and Accreditation efforts.



## SECRETARY

Kristal Crowley, a Special Project Coordinator at Missoula College, serves as the primary Point of Contact for CyberMontana programs, facilitating

access to training opportunities and coordinating vendor involvement. She works closely with the CyberMontana team to develop and maintain marketing and communication. With a background in Curriculum Studies and prior non-profit leadership, Kristal is committed to fostering positive outcomes and supporting academic and career readiness.

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## ABOUT WICYS

WiCyS started in 2013 by Dr. Ambareen Siraj through a National Science Foundation grant awarded to Tennessee Tech University. In less than ten short years, it has grown into an organization representing a leading alliance between trailblazers from academia, government and industry. As a member of WiCyS, you have access to all the resources and opportunities provided by your network. From community groups to career fairs, scholarships to speaking opportunities, and much much more. Visit <https://www.wicys.org> to check out all the benefits and see what's waiting for you!



## 2024 Calendar

Visit <https://www.wicys.org> to check out all the benefits and see what's waiting for you!

### **Monday, February 19, 2024, at 10 am CT:**

Opening date for 2024 Conference registration for in-person and virtual attendance for non-students.

### **March 25-29, 2024 (Tentative):**

The first Cyber Challenge is tentatively planned for this week.

### **April 11 - 13, 2024:**

The 2024 Conference dedicated to cybersecurity will be held in Nashville, Tennessee.

### **May 15th (Annually):**

Deadline for students to submit a written evaluation/testimonial addressing the impact of their membership on their cybersecurity role.