**CSAC Meeting Minutes October 11, 2023**

1. **CyIO Update:**

An overview of recent activities and developments within the ISU cybersecurity program was provided, highlighting steady enrollment numbers and the success of the concurrent credits system for undergraduates.

* **Updates on Existing and New Projects**
	+ A comprehensive overview of current projects was presented, with a visual aid showing the range of programs from technical training to community literacy.
	+ The progress of the ReCIPE project focused on security for critical infrastructure, especially smaller organizations like municipal utilities and co-ops.
		- Successful exercises were held at Iowa State and the University of Illinois, with multiple organizations participating and plans for future exercises.
	+ Work has started for the development of a cybersecurity collaboration network for Smart Agriculture and the efforts to create a regional coalition involving five universities.
		- The goal is to implement this coalition in response to the funding in the Farm Bill.
	+ Work on cybersecurity for farmers and agricultural operations, including upcoming events to provide training and materials.
	+ Working with ISU Extension to present cybersecurity materials to all Iowan communities. Farm conference will be held in January 2024.
* **Professional Certification in Cybersecurity**
	+ This certification consists of 21 credits and is intended to upskill individuals and provide micro-credentials that align with the NICE framework.
	+ We are exploring offering courses related to AI as part of the certification.
	+ A grant in partnership with the Rochester Institute of Technology will provide scholarships for 25 veterans to pursue Professional Certification starting in the upcoming fall.
* **Introduction of the Cybersecurity Ambassador Program**
	+ The Cybersecurity Ambassador Program, designed to promote cybersecurity literacy in local communities, was introduced.
	+ The program aims to create ambassadors in high schools, community colleges, universities, and the community who will spread awareness and education on cybersecurity.
	+ Ambassadors will have access to training materials and support to communicate cybersecurity concepts to their local communities effectively.
	+ The program also intends to foster collaboration among cybersecurity professionals, encourage innovation, and engage the community.
	+ The crowdsourcing content was discussed, emphasizing the need for relevant, accurate, and accessible materials. Will collaborate with CISA on sourcing these materials.
	+ The council recognized the importance of maintaining a clear and concise message that is suitable for various audiences, including those who may not have a technical background.
	+ It was agreed that content should be vetted and approved to ensure quality and consistency.
1. **OCIO (Office of the Chief Information Officer) Update:**
* Insights into the restructuring within the state system were shared, detailing the reduction from 60 agencies to 13 to consolidate and enhance cybersecurity efforts.
* The challenges and ongoing initiatives to improve cybersecurity management across multiple data centers were discussed.
* Emphasis was placed on the alignment of state cybersecurity policies with national standards and guidelines.
* Discussions on budget allocations, resource management, and the integration of emerging technologies in the cybersecurity framework.

**4. ISU ITS (Information Technology Services) Update:**

* ITS provided an operational perspective on cybersecurity, focusing on the day-to-day management of IT infrastructure, including Workday Student Migration which is currently in rollout period one.
* The update covered recent technological upgrades, cybersecurity tool deployments, and the challenges of managing a secure IT environment. Collaborative group chat between the Solution Center, Identity and Email team and the IT Security Team.
* Insights into ongoing training programs for IT staff and the adoption of best practices in cybersecurity were shared.
* The role of ITS in supporting other departments and agencies in their cybersecurity efforts was discussed.
* Microsoft Defender for Endpoint was discussed. Currently rolled out for 6000 endpoints and continuring to deploy 30,000 campus endpoints.
* Suggestion of starting the student shadow program back up.

**5. CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) Update:**

* The CISA representative offered a national viewpoint on cybersecurity challenges and strategies.
* Key topics included national cybersecurity initiatives, collaboration between federal and state agencies, and the role of CISA in supporting these efforts.
* Discussion on the availability of federal resources and expertise to assist state and local entities in enhancing their cybersecurity posture.
* The update also touched upon the importance of a coordinated response to national and international cyber threats.

**6. Open Discussion:**

* Participants shared their experiences, challenges, and best practices in cybersecurity from their respective domains.
* Suggestions for future collaboration, potential projects, and areas of focus for the next meeting were discussed. A list of job profiles for students was suggested to help students find out what companies are looking for. Can embed this job profile list into the professionalism and ethics course. It was also suggested to create a list of jobs students can get with a cyber degree.
* The discussion also included brainstorming on how to effectively integrate the insights from the updates into a unified cybersecurity strategy.

**7. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment:**

* The meeting concluded with a recap of the key points discussed and a note of appreciation for the valuable contributions of all participants.
* The group emphasized the ongoing commitment to enhancing cybersecurity and encouraged continued collaboration and communication among members.
* The next meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2024, and participants are invited to suggest agenda items or express any specific focus they wish for future meetings.