

Nomination for Outstanding Innovation in Election Cybersecurity and Technology Election Judge Cybersecurity Training Module Program

Description: Developing online cybersecurity training modules for Election Judges to increase the Election Judges' knowledge and awareness of election cyber security issues and strategies.

- **Innovation:** This project leveraged the strengths and expertise of Towson University's College of Business and Economics and Fisher College of Science and Mathematics and the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections to serve our community through improving election security. This is the only program we know to define threat holistically (cyber, physical, insider) and the only program to focus on Election Judges.
- **Sustainability:** We look forward to continuing this partnership with Towson University, expanding the scope of the project to include additional modules related to vote by mail, Same Day Registration, vote centers, canvassing, and other changes in the Election processes as they develop.
- **Outreach Effort:** Election Judges in Anne Arundel County participated in this project. Additionally, 8 Towson University graduate students performed research regarding the effectiveness of the training modules, Election Judge retention of cyber security information, and the beginning knowledge of the Election Judges and knowledge base after completing their modules. The Anne Arundel County Board of Elections and Towson University will use these modules as a basis for future projects in conjunction with the Maryland Association of Election Officials and the Maryland State Board of Elections.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** This partnership was a "Smart Government" project with Towson University, leveraging their graduate students skills and knowledge to provide the students with the opportunity to develop real programs in a classroom and research environment for an essential function of democracy. The students developed the modules with input from Anne Arundel County Board of Elections staff to tailor election processes where appropriate for the local Board.
- **Replicability:** This program is replicable to other Local Election Boards. The modules are tailored to the local election processes with input from the Local Board staff. The project uses graduate student resources to perform the module setup as well as conduct research related to the effectiveness of the course.

- **Generating Positive Results:** The public confidence and integrity of voting systems is essential for the health of our neighborhoods, communities, and democracy. Election Judges who are more informed regarding cyber security issues are able to respond more effectively to situations that may occur during the voting process as well as respond more confidently to voter concerns.

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