



FAYETTEVILLE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PO BOX 35236 | FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28303-0236

25 March, 2026

The Honorable David Rouzer
U.S. House of Representatives
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

As President of Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) and co-founder of the Carolina Cyber Network (CCN), I respectfully request your support for a \$950,000 Community Project Funding request through the HUD Community Development Fund – Economic Development Initiative. This investment will significantly expand cybersecurity education, workforce development, and mission-critical training opportunities for Fort Bragg and the surrounding communities of North Carolina’s 7th Congressional District.

FTCC and the CCN have built a strong record of collaboration with the XVIII Airborne Corps and its partners at Fort Bragg, including the successful completion of a proof-of-concept for Project Pathfinder. We have also partnered with small towns and municipalities across the region to deliver cyber hygiene training and conduct rapid cybersecurity assessments—helping local governments strengthen their security posture and protect critical infrastructure. These efforts demonstrate the power of a coordinated, statewide cyber workforce ecosystem, and this project seeks to expand that impact even further.

The CCN, now a consortium of 23 two and four-year colleges and universities across North Carolina, is recognized by both the Trump and Biden administrations as the nation’s premier cyber workforce development ecosystem. With substantial support from the State of North Carolina and the National Security Agency, the CCN is uniquely positioned to help close the state’s cybersecurity workforce gap—currently exceeding 14,000 open positions—and to support the national security missions anchored at Fort Bragg.

This Community Project Funding request advances three critical missions for the 7th Congressional District:

1. **Expand access to cybersecurity education and training for military spouses and dependents**, enabling them to develop strong cyber hygiene practices and pursue high-wage, portable careers that support family stability and economic mobility.

2. **Accelerate Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) pathways for transitioning service members**, allowing their military experience—particularly in intelligence, communications, and operations—to translate directly into advanced standing in cybersecurity degree programs and expedited entry into the civilian cyber workforce.
3. **Establish a North Carolina chapter of the Military Cyber Professionals Association (MCPA)** to integrate the CCN's experiential learning model with the continuing education needs of active-duty cyber personnel at Fort Bragg, creating a unified, mission-aligned talent pipeline for both military and civilian cyber roles.

Military families face unique employment challenges due to frequent relocations and deployment cycles. Cybersecurity careers offer flexibility, high wages, and long-term stability—making them ideally suited for transitioning warfighters, military spouses, and dependents. By expanding access to cybersecurity training, this project strengthens the regional workforce pipeline while directly supporting the national security missions carried out at Fort Bragg.

This initiative aligns squarely with Community Development Fund priorities by expanding access to education, strengthening workforce capacity, and creating new economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals in the Fort Bragg region. The project will deliver direct workforce training and career pathways for transitioning service members, military spouses, and underserved populations—helping diversify the regional economy and establishing a scalable, cost-effective model for cybersecurity workforce development that can be replicated at military installations nationwide.

Thank you for your steadfast support of North Carolina's military families and communities. We appreciate your consideration of this request and welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information your office may need.

Sincerely,



Mark Sorrells, Ed.D
President
Fayetteville Technical Community College
Co-Founder, Carolina Cyber Network

March 24, 2026

The Honorable David Rouzer
U.S. House of Representatives
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rouzer,

My name is Jacob Wright, I am a student in the Fayetteville Technical Community College cybersecurity program and a participant in the Carolina Cyber Network. As a current intern with the North Carolina Department of Information Technology, I have experienced firsthand how this program prepares students to meet real-world cybersecurity challenges.

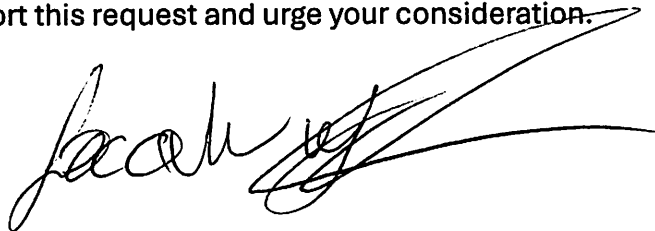
Recently, during my internship, I helped identify, stop, and remediate a critical cyber-attack targeting North Carolina's systems. The hands-on training, applied coursework, and mentorship I received through FTCC and the Carolina Cyber Network directly prepared me for that moment. Without this program's emphasis on real-world skills and experiential learning, I would not have been ready to contribute at that level.

Cybersecurity offers a portable, high-wage pathway, and this program provides the access and training needed to succeed. Expanding this initiative will allow more students, particularly low-mid wage individuals, to gain the skills necessary to protect critical infrastructure while achieving meaningful economic mobility.

This project strengthens the cybersecurity workforce supporting both North Carolina's economy and national security missions tied to Fort Bragg. It advances workforce development and economic opportunity, particularly for underserved populations, and represents a proven, cost-effective model that can be replicated nationwide.

I strongly support this request and urge your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacob Wright', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jacob Wright
Cybersecurity Student, FTCC, CCN
Intern, North Carolina Department of Information Technology

KIRK J. DEVIERE
Chairman

VERONICA B. JONES
Vice-Chairwoman

GLENN B. ADAMS
JEANNETTE M. COUNCIL
W. MARSHALL FAIRCLOTH
PAVAN D. PATEL
HENRY C. TYSON



ANDREA TEBBE
Clerk to the Board

IVA CLARK
Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 18, 2026

The Honorable David Rouzer
U.S. House of Representatives
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rouzer:

Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) and the Carolina Cyber Network (CCN) request your support for a \$950,000 Community Project Funding request through the HUD Community Development Fund – Economic Development Initiative. This project will expand cybersecurity education and workforce training opportunities for Fort Bragg and surrounding communities of the 7th Congressional District. This project advances existing efforts at FTCC with USSOCOM/JSOC to develop talent pipelines in cyber, as well as the CCN, which is a consortium of 23 colleges across North Carolina to protect the State’s digital infrastructure and close the workforce delta in cybersecurity. CCN has received considerable funding from the State as well as the National Security Agency (NSA) and is currently listed as the premier cyber workforce development ecosystem in the country by both the Biden and Trump White Houses.

This request fulfills three missions for the 7th Congressional District: 1. Expands access to public-serving facilities and programs for cybersecurity education and training to military spouses and dependents to develop better cyber hygiene and to augment the cyber workforce in the State (currently 14,000+ open cyber positions); 2. To advance Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) curricula for transitioning warfighters so that their military experience can lead to accelerated cyber degrees and career paths in the civilian sector with emphasis on public sector positions; and 3. Stand up a North Carolina chapter of the Military Cyber Professionals Association (MCPA) designed to fuse the experiential learning model of the CCN with the continuing education efforts of active duty cyber personnel at Fort Bragg.

Military families frequently face employment challenges due to relocation and deployment cycles. Cybersecurity offers portable, high-wage career opportunities, enabling meaningful economic mobility for transitioning warfighters, military spouses and family members. By expanding access to cybersecurity training, this project will strengthen the workforce pipeline supporting both the regional economy and national security missions associated with Fort Bragg.

This initiative directly advances Community Development Fund-eligible economic development and workforce training objectives by expanding access to education, strengthening workforce capacity, and creating new economic opportunities for families in the Fort Bragg area. This project will provide direct

workforce training and career pathways for military spouses, transitioning service members, and other underserved populations in the Fort Bragg region, many of whom qualify as low- and moderate-income individuals, thereby meeting CDBG national objectives related to economic opportunity and workforce development.

In addition to providing career pathways for military members and their families, the program will help diversify the regional economy and develop a cost-effective model for cybersecurity workforce development that can be replicated at military installations nationwide.

Thank you for your continued support of the communities and military families of North Carolina. We appreciate your consideration of this request and welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information your office may need.

Sincerely,



Kirk J. deViere, Chairman
Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

March 24, 2026

The Honorable David Rouzer
U.S. House of Representatives
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rouzer,

My name is Damon Hall, and I am the child of an active-duty service member stationed at Fort Bragg. Like many military families, constant relocation made it difficult to find stable educational and career pathways. Through Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) and the Carolina Cyber Network, I was able to pursue a cybersecurity degree that has now positioned me for a high-wage career with life-changing opportunities. This program works. It provided me with accessible training, practical skills, and a clear pathway into a field where starting salaries range from \$78,000 to over \$100,000. More importantly, it gave my family stability and upward mobility despite the challenges of military life.

Expanding this initiative will allow more military spouses, children, and transitioning service members to access these same opportunities. By strengthening the cybersecurity workforce pipeline, this project supports both the regional economy and national security missions tied to Fort Bragg. It directly advances economic development and workforce training goals by creating pathways to high-demand careers, particularly for underserved and low- to moderate-income populations.

This is a cost-effective, proven model that can be replicated at military installations nationwide. I strongly support this request and urge your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Damon Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "H".

Damon Hall
Cybersecurity Graduate, FTCC
Military Dependent

'Saving the Day:' NCDIT Interns' Quick Actions Help Protect State Systems

3 min read



Carolina Cyber Network interns Jacob Wright and Jennifer Medina

NCDIT cybersecurity interns participating in a program designed to build a talent pipeline into the IT workforce are helping protect the state of North Carolina's IT systems and the people who use them.

Jennifer Medina, a Wake Technical Community College graduate, and Jacob Wright, a Fayetteville Technical Community College student, are among the first interns through a partnership with the [Carolina Cyber Network](#), comprised of 23 North Carolina universities and community colleges.

Working 20 hours a week in NCDIT's Enterprise Security and Risk Management Office, Jennifer and Jacob began learning how to investigate and handle suspicious email and identity alerts.

Quick Thinking Stops Potential Threats

In separate instances, they soon thwarted potential cyber threats – with “speed,” “quick eyes,” “quick actions” and “curiosity,” their supervisor, Albert Moore, IT security and compliance manager, said.

Jennifer spotted a red flag on an email and started a purge of that email from inboxes. Crucially, she also immediately put in place a block preventing users from accessing the malicious URL even if they clicked on it before removal.

Jacob noticed a threat actor attempting to compromise an account – before the system had sent any alerts. He escalated it to his team, who disabled and isolated the event.

“Folks raved about what they did,” Albert said. “It really caught my attention when their coworkers were congratulating them for saving the day.”

Proud to Protect North Carolinians

The interns valued the chance to make significant contributions to defending the state's IT system and the residents who use it.

“The cybersecurity work that we're doing and our team's been doing is imperative to keep NCDIT continually operating like a well-oiled machine,” Jacob said.

“It helps keep the state infrastructure system protected but also the people, which is a big part of it,” Jennifer said.

These successes have encouraged both interns that they can thrive in cybersecurity careers.

“It's confirmed this is the work I want to be doing. This is the career I want to be pursuing,” Jennifer said.

“It's definitely built my confidence moving forward in my career,” Jacob said. “The training I've received from all other team members has been top tier, and I just hope that one day I could help others as much as they've helped me.”

Flexible Internships That Fit Real Lives

These internships' unique structure – 20 hours a week, paid, working remotely in shifts around the clock, alongside seasoned staff – offered flexibility essential for both Jacob and Jennifer to take advantage of them.

After a military career as an Army sergeant and combat medic, serving on two deployments, Jacob began studying cybersecurity at Fayetteville Tech. "This internship is a kind of bridge over the gap to doing exactly what I want to do," he said.

Settling down after life with a military family, Jennifer jumped on the internship to get hands-on experience while working on a bachelor's degree and caring for her children. "The combination of being able to get insights on security operations center work and also working with the public sector – it's the perfect combo," she said.

ESRMO is uniquely well-suited to provide an experience that benefits both interns and NCDIT, Albert said. Shifts around the clock provide flexibility for interns to work alongside "seasoned experienced staff," who are freed up to handle higher-level tasks or take on additional projects.

A Unique Model for Cyber Workforce Development

The ability to make a meaningful impact protecting North Carolinians can be an incentive to pursue cybersecurity careers in the public sector, Albert said – a growing field already facing workforce shortages.

"There's lots of places to fit in cybersecurity, and I believe it's a good, strong career choice," Albert said. "Public service is a calling. I think the reward is that the data you're protecting is your data, that of your family and loved ones. It's your mom's tax return. It's your kids' health information we're protecting."

NCDIT is committed to developing opportunities to expand the talent pipeline bringing talented, early-career workers into the cybersecurity and IT fields in North Carolina.

"The folks that are coming through this program are working with us," Albert said. "Any state agencies would be lucky to have them. So it's good for our future and workforce."

More Connections

[See all](#)

NCDIT Leaders Highlight State's AI Efforts to University Students

NCDIT Partners with GovRAMP to Elevate Cloud Security Standards

'Saving the Day:' NCDIT Interns' Quick Actions Help Protect State Systems

Chief Legal and Acquisition Officer Hugh Harris Draws Inspiration from Martin Luther King Jr.
