University of Colorado
Colorado Springs

SMART Act Presentation
SB18-086 Cyber Coding Cryptology For State Records

Joint Business Committee Presentation

January 14, 2026

SB 18-086 Institutional Consolidated as of 30 June 2025

	FY 2024*	FY 2025*	Two-year Total
Total SB 18-086 Appropriation	$5,100,000	$5,100,00	**$10,200,000**
Student Scholarships Awarded ($$)	$1,800,252	$1,492,369	$3,292,621
Total # Scholarships Awarded	679	673	1,352
Baseline Against 10%/20% Requirement	Exceeded	Exceeded	Exceeded
Faculty/Adjuncts Hired	17.75	46.75	64.5
Student Internships Placed	155	184	339
Degrees and Certificates Awarded	1,766	926	2,692
Workshops/presentations Delivered	419	280	699
Matching Funds Raised	$24,347,775	$4,775,885	$29,123,660

*FY is 1 July to 30 June

Colorado Cybersecurity Initiative Impact FY 2024-2025

- **UCCS –** UCCS has grown student enrollment in cybersecurity programs by 40%, faculty research and grants have increased significantly, and strategy is focusing on industry integration, workforce readiness and data literacy across or 20 cybersecurity pathways in 5 colleges.

- **CSU** - Cybersecurity programs at both Fort Collins and Pueblo campuses have seen substantial growth, providing a pipeline from high school to career through academic programs, real-world security internship opportunities, participation in cutting-edge research, and placement across Colorado and the nation in cybersecurity jobs.

- **PPSC** - The cybersecurity program has sustained rapid enrollment growth across multiple academic terms resulting in enrollment doubling in the last three years.

- **MSU** - In the past two years, enrollment has grown by 13%; we are increasing scholarships, experiential learning, certification support, and industry connections; and we continue to see a pipeline of MSU alumni into the MS in Cybersecurity program.

- **CMU** - Cybersecurity center's dozen+ undergraduate student interns collaborate year-round with faculty in cutting-edge research in cybersecurity, machine learning and AI technologies producing 2-3 peer-reviewed articles every year

- **WCU** - WCU leveraged SB 086 funds to open cybersecurity pathways for rural students through scholarships, industry certification, and national exposure, expanding access while strengthening long-term program capacity.

- **NCC** - National Cybersecurity Center is undertaking a strategic shift in leadership and focus, prioritizing public understanding of online risk and empowering people with the knowledge and confidence to take action. This transformation positions the NCC to meet emerging threats where they now occur: in the everyday digital lives of individuals.

University of Colorado
Colorado Springs

UCCS Impact: CO Cyber Security Initiative (CSI): AY2024-25

- UCCS **consistently exceeds** legislative requirements using > 20% of funding for student scholarships. UCCS has awarded **460 student scholarships** in cybersecurity programs in 5 of 6 UCCS colleges

- **366 UCCS undergrad and graduate students** earned cybersecurity degrees, minors or industry certificates in 20 cybersecurity degree/certificate programs across 5 colleges

- UCCS is an NSA designated institution in both Cybersecurity Defense and Research, the **only Cybersecurity Research NSA designated institution in Colorado**

- UCCS cybersecurity faculty and students continue to expand their research and community outreach and have completed **126 cybersecurity presentations, research papers and seminars**

- UCCS cyber faculty leveraged SB18-086 legislative funds to obtain over **$1.4M in additional grants** for cybersecurity research

- **UCCS is the founding member of the Mountain West Cybersecurity Consortium (MWCC),** over 40 post-secondary institutions across 8 states, and has been awarded NSF and DoD grants on behalf of MWCC

- Applying the long-term dynamic UCCS Cybersecurity **POWER** Strategy (Partnership, Outreach, Workforce Readiness, Education and Research) formed in 2020, to amplify the impacts POWER has had, efforts **focus on cybersecurity student workforce readiness, integration with industry including research, and overall data literacy and effectiveness.**

The state's investment has helped bring parts of this strategy to fruition.

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

	FY 2024	FY 2025*	Total
Total SB 18-086 Appropriation	$2,800,000	$2,000,000	**$4,800,000**
Student Scholarships Awarded ($$)	$910,000	$689,000	$1,599,000
Total # Scholarships Awarded	499	460	959
Baseline Against 20% Requirement	33.0%	34.45%	Average: 27.38%
Faculty/Adjuncts Hired	3	14	17
Student Internships Placed	22	30	52
Degrees and Certificates Awarded	666	366	1032
Workshops/presentations Delivered	300	126	396
Matching Funds Raised	$20,509,650	$1,410,167	$22,047,817

Beginning in FY 2025, UCCS is reporting separately from NCC, so numbers will be slightly less than past years.

UCCS
University of Colorado
Colorado Springs

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

— S Y S T E M —

Colorado State University · Colorado State University - Pueblo · CSU - Global Campus

CSU's Impact Through the CO Cybersecurity Initiative: AY2024-25

- Top-ranked MCIS degree and graduate cybersecurity certificate
- NSA Center of Excellence
- Cybersecurity awareness training for small businesses and alumni
- Five-day "IT in Business" summer program for high school students
- Cyber camps for K-12 students in Fort Collins and at Spur
- CSU Pueblo: National Cyber League power rankings, top 1% in the nation
- CSU Pueblo: 47% - 68% increases for Under-Represented Minority student enrollment as CIS majors and Cyber Security concentrations
- Interns ran CSU System-wide vulnerability management program
- Publications & Presentations: multiple awards in top-level security conferences
  - Book: *Systems Engineering for Critical Infrastructure in a Cyber World*
  - Journal article: "A Model for Information Security Vulnerability Awareness", Computers & Security
  - *Best paper award: "Modeling the interplay between Cyber Attacks and System Failures through AI Planning", IEEE International Conference on Software Quality, Reliability, and Security, 2024.*

Colorado State University System

	FY 20	FY 21	FY22	FY 23	FY24	FY 25
Total SB 18-086 Appropriation	$1,200,000	$729,412	$1,200,000	$1,200,000	$1,200,000	$1,200,000
Amount Spent on Scholarships	$306,050	$286,005	$1,166,083	$669,269	$703,252	$560,869
Number of Scholarships Awarded	141	118	237	106	69	70
Allotted Amount Earmarked for Scholarships	$180,000	$108,000	$180,000	$180,000	$180,000	$180,000
At/above allotted scholarship earmark	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number of faculty/adjuncts hired	32	9	22	7	8	27
Number of student internships	129	118	198	93	73	64
Degrees/certificates/course completions	303	371	1,061	947	925	354
Presentations/seminars on cybersecurity	143	15	123	90	107	107
All other matching money raised	$7,700,000	$3,249,816	$5,231,369	$2,828,194	$2,850,000	$1,450,000

MSU's Impact Through the CO Cybersecurity Initiative: AY2024-25

B.S. & M.S. in Cybersecurity

- *Unique, interdisciplinary program!* is jointly offered by the departments of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Computer Information Systems and Computer Sciences.
- **We tailor** our content to broadly train students in social/behavioral science and computer information systems as well as computer science.

- 557 BS in Cybersecurity majors
  - 785 retention rate
  - 64% students of color
  - 26% female
  - 22% veterans
  - 50% first-generation
- 48 MS in Cybersecurity majors
  - 53% students of color
  - 42% female
  - Fall 2024: 57% MSU Denver alum
  - Current: 66% MSU Denver alum

- National Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (2022-2027)
- Workforce Development
  - Student organizations: Women in Cybersecurity, CyberBridge, Girls who Code
  - Industry partners (e.g., Lockheed Martin, Charles Schwab, Dish, Crocs, and more)
- Experiential Learning
  - Internships
  - TryHackMe
  - Certification support (NET+, SEC+, CIPP)

Metropolitan State University

	FY 2024	FY 2025	Total
Total SB 18-086 Appropriation	$300,000	$300,000	$600,000
Student Scholarships Awarded ($$)	$30,000	$40,500	$70,500
Total # Scholarships Awarded	20	27	47
Baseline Against 20% Requirement	10%: $30,000	10%: $30,000	$60,000
Faculty/Adjuncts Hired	1	1	2
Student Internships Placed	0	0	0
Degrees and Certificates Awarded	54	110	164
Workshops/presentations Delivered	0	0	0
Matching Funds Raised	$758,000	$900,000	$1,660,000

PPSC's Impact Through the CO Cybersecurity Initiative: AY2024-25

- **More than 700 active declared student majors** in cybersecurity and networking programs, reflecting sustained demand and rapid enrollment growth across multiple academic terms.
- **Year-over-year enrollment growth significantly exceeds institutional norms**:
  - Fall 2024: +29%
  - Summer 2024: +22%
  - Spring 2025: +43%
- **High-volume credential production across applied pathways**, including:
  - AAS Cybersecurity enrollments exceeding 500 students annually
  - Networking and cybersecurity certificates supporting rapid workforce entry and upskilling.
- **Successful launch and expansion of the Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Cybersecurity**, designed for working professionals and applied degree completers:
  - Fall 2024 launch cohort of 13 students
  - 18 additional BAS students entering Spring 2025
  - 38 students approved for Fall 2025 entry
  - Approximately 80 active BAS majors
  - First graduates expected May 2026 (estimated 10–15 graduates).
- **Continuous curriculum modernization** to align with employer needs and emerging threats, including updates to AAS Cybersecurity, AAS Networking, and certificates, and the introduction of BAS emphasis areas in Cloud Security, Secure Software Development, and Homeland Security and Incident Management.
- **State-supported applied learning infrastructure** that directly strengthens workforce readiness, including:
  - New cybersecurity lab equipment MARSCRAFT for forensics, industrial control systems vulnerability analysis, and A+ lab kits
  - "Capture the Packet" cyber range supporting team-based learning for up to 20 students per session.
- **Faculty-led, workforce-focused delivery model** supported by full-time cybersecurity faculty and dedicated lab coordination, ensuring instructional quality and scalability as enrollments continue to grow.

Pikes Peak State College

	FY 2024	FY 2025	Total
Total SB 18-086 Appropriation	300,000	300,000	**600,000**
Student Scholarships Awarded ($$)	30,000	-	30,000
Total # Scholarships Awarded	24	-	24
Baseline Against 10% Requirement	30,000	-*	60,000
Faculty/Adjuncts Hired	3	3	3
Student Internships Placed	41	59	100
Degrees and Certificates Awarded	102	80	182
Workshops/presentations Delivered	3	5	8
Matching Funds Raised	145,000	287,000	432,000

* $30,000 was awarded in scholarships in Fall 2025 due to personnel turnover in FY 2025

WESTERN
COLORADO UNIVERSITY

WCU Cybersecurity Student Impact (AY 2024–25)

- **Expanded access to cybersecurity careers:** Used 59% of funding ($117K) for student scholarships (up from $95K) reducing financial barriers for students entering a high-demand workforce
- **Improved student readiness and retention:** SB 086 funds provided laptops, Security+ training, and engagement support essential to student success
- **Increased workforce credentials:** Students completed industry-recognized Security+ certification through a multi-week hybrid training
- **Stronger career pathways and exposure:** Students connected with national cybersecurity leaders through NSA conference participation

Western Colorado University

	AY 2021	AY 2022	AY 2023	AY 2024	AY 2025	Total
Total SB 18-086 Appropriation	$121,568	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000	**$921,568**
Student Scholarships Awarded ($$)	$27,300	$35,000	$42,000	$95,000	$117,000	$316,300
Total # Scholarships Awarded	4	12	14	35	31	96
Baseline Against 10% Requirement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Faculty/Adjuncts Hired	.97 FTE ($73,519)	.97 FTE ($100,025)	.91 FTE ($108,759)	1.5 FTE ($197,574)	.5 FTE ($83,000)	4.91 FTE ($562,877)
Student Internships Placed	1	4	11	0	5	21
Degrees and Certificates Awarded	2	7	5	7	2	23
Workshops/presentations Delivered	0	0	12	0	1	13
Matching Funds Raised	$127,422	$186,363	$130,913	$85,125	$128,718	$529,823

COLORADO MESA
UNIVERSITY

CMU's Impact Through the CO Cybersecurity Initiative: AY2024-25

- Maintained NSA-approved Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber-Defense (CAE-CD) designation since 2021; in process of renewal in 2026

- Retained 1 full-time faculty and 0.25 acting director of Cybersecurity Center

- Student interns working at the Cybersecurity Center and Faculty published 3 peer-reviewed research articles

- Supported students and faculty travel to International Collegiate Programming Contests and international conferences participation

- Starting Fall 2026, CMU is offering new micro credential program – Professional Certificate in Managerial Cybersecurity through the Business department

- Working towards offering an interdisciplinary and stackable Bachelor's in Cybersecurity Program in partnership with CMU Tech and Business department
    - CMU Tech 2-year Technical degree, Prof. Cert in Cybersecurity and Prof. Cert. in Managerial Certificate -> Bachelor's in Cybersecurity

- CS and Cyber programs in collaboration with West Slope Tech professionals and entrepreneurs host bi-weekly meetup and presentations to discuss local jobs, internships, and current CS and Cyber topics

- CS and Cyber programs host annual Cybersecurity Awareness Fair every Fall where students and faculty engage with posters and hands-on demonstrations

COLORADO MESA
U N I V E R S I T Y

Colorado Mesa University

	AY 2024	AY 2025	Total
Total SB 18-086 Appropriation	$300,000	$300,000	**$600,000**
Student Scholarships Awarded ($$)	$32,000	$35,000	$67,000
Total # Scholarships Awarded	32	35	67
Baseline Against 10% Requirement	$2000	$5,000	$7000
Faculty/Adjuncts Hired	1.25	1.25	1.25
Student Interns Hired	19	16	35
Degrees and Certificates Awarded	12	14	26
Workshops/presentations Delivered	9	28	37
Matching Funds Raised	-	-	-

NATIONAL
CYBERSECURITY
CENTER

NCC's Impact Through the CO Cybersecurity Initiative: AY2024-25

Expanded public outreach and community engagement Reached broad and diverse audiences through large-scale and family-friendly events such as Haunted Brewery Capture the Flag (700+ participants), Cyber Hygiene Community Day with UCCS, and Cyber K–12 Family Night at the Family Success Center.

Advanced cybersecurity literacy across age groups Delivered hands-on learning and awareness experiences through High School Capture the Flag with Deloitte, Cyber Hygiene Community Day, and K–12 family programming focused on safe digital practices.

Strengthened cybersecurity workforce pathways Introduced students and early-career professionals to cybersecurity careers through the UCCS Cybersecurity Career Panel, Soaring Eagles Community School Junior Achievement Career Day, and mentorship at the Space Symposium for Young Professionals.

Deepened cross-sector and global partnerships Collaborated with academic, industry, nonprofit, and international partners through events such as the World Affairs Council International Visit, RISE Ecosystem Expo, and joint programming with UCCS and Deloitte.

Demonstrated regional and national thought leadership
Elevated the organization's voice and expertise through participation in the RSA Conference, speaking at the XI Pitch or Ponder Session, and outreach via the Iron Butterfly Podcast

National Cybersecurity Center

	AY 2024	AY 2025	Total
Total SB 18-086 Appropriation		$800,000	
Student Scholarships Awarded ($$)		50,000	
Total # Scholarships Awarded		50	
Baseline Against 20% Requirement		n/a	
Faculty/Adjuncts Hired		n/a	
Student Internships Placed		10	
Degrees and Certificates Awarded		n/a	
Workshops/presentations Delivered		13	
Matching Funds Raised		600,000	

Impacts of SB 18-086 Funding Cuts

- Changes in state and federal funding for higher education are affecting institutions statewide, with some adopting new budget models.

- Departments and institutions must identify new strategies to support students amid these funding shifts.

- Students are facing difficult financial decisions, which may lead to reduced course loads or temporary stops in enrollment.

- Reduced investment in cybersecurity poses challenges not only for higher education, but also for the workforce, industry, and Colorado's economy.

- Colorado has a significant talent gap and a large and growing cybersecurity workforce demand
  - Approximately 20,000 unfilled cybersecurity positions statewide
  - Pressure on higher education to generate workforce to fill these pipelines
  - Threatens Colorado's ability to meet industry, government, and defense-sector needs
  - Requires sustained investment in education and training

UCCS
University of Colorado
Colorado Springs

We are happy to answer any questions.