

## The WHAT

The Towson University Center for STEM Excellence in partnership with the TU Cyber Center is excited to announce the 2024-2025 **B'More Secure GenCyber Professional Learning Program**. This year-long professional learning opportunity for middle and high school educators in Maryland will build teacher capacity to integrate cybersecurity concepts into their courses and engage students in learning about careers and post-secondary opportunities in cyber security. The program is primarily designed for teachers with little to no cybersecurity content knowledge, however teachers with existing cybersecurity knowledge and teaching experience who want to continue to build their skills are welcome to apply.



Participants will gain an understanding and develop foundational skills in core cybersecurity concepts related to information and data confidentiality, integrity, availability, authentication, and accountability. Participants will be supported as they make connections between these cybersecurity concepts and the subject areas they teach. In addition, we will explore social justice areas related to cybersecurity.

## The HOW

The B'More Secure GenCyber project is built around a 5-day teacher 'summer camp' held on the campus of Towson University June 24 - June 28, 2024. Each day of the camp is designed around a cybersecurity concept. Camp facilitators will include a mix of university faculty, graduate students and K-12 pedagogical experts. Participants will have the option of staying on campus or commuting daily and meals will be provided. Optional evening activities will include networking with colleagues, cybersecurity themed games and workshops.

During the summer camp participants will begin working on their Classroom Implementation Project, creating three cybersecurity lessons they will use in their own classrooms. The following school year, participants will attend virtual webinars, implement cybersecurity lessons in their

classrooms and receive support from colleagues, K-12 pedagogical experts as well as content experts. The year-long program will culminate in an in-person B'More Secure GenCyber Conference in Spring 2025 where participants will meet, network and share the results of their Classroom Implementation Projects.

Participants will leave the program with increased knowledge and confidence about cybersecurity concepts, as well as ideas and ways to continue to engage their students in learning about cybersecurity and exploring career and post-secondary opportunities in the field.

<b>B'More Secure GenCyber Professional Learning Community</b>		
<b>Pre-Work (3+ hours)</b>	<b>Summer Camp (31+ hours)</b>	<b>School Year (14+ hours)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Kick-off Webinar (online/sync)</li> <li>★ Community-building and orientation pre-work (online/async)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ GenCyber Concepts (novice &amp; advanced tracks)</li> <li>★ Cybersecurity pedagogical content knowledge</li> <li>★ Cybersecurity Career Connections</li> <li>★ Cybersecurity Curricular Connections</li> <li>★ Cybersecurity Connections to Local Contexts</li> <li>★ Lesson plan development</li> <li>★ Evening community building, games &amp; workshops</li> <li>★ 1x1 support from content &amp; K-12 pedagogical experts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Finalize Classroom Implementation Project</li> <li>★ 1x1 support from content and K-12 pedagogical experts</li> <li>★ Implement cybersecurity lessons</li> <li>★ GenCyber Concepts Virtual Seminars</li> <li>★ Team meetings with colleagues</li> <li>★ Access to undergraduate classroom mentors</li> <li>★ Access to Raspberry Pi classroom equipment</li> <li>★ Attend and present at culminating B'More Secure GenCyber Conference</li> </ul>

## The WHEN and WHERE

The B'More Secure GenCyber program will begin in late May/early June 2024 with a virtual (synchronous) Kick-Off Webinar as well as ~5 hours of online (asynchronous) community building and orientation pre-work. The in-person summer workshop will take place June 24 - June 28, 2024 with a final in-person B'More Secure GenCyber Conference May 3, 2025 during which program participants will present the results of Classroom Implementation Projects and network with colleagues.

- ★ **Kick-Off Webinar:** DATE TBD (Webinar on Zoom)
- ★ **Summer Camp:** June 24-June 28, 2024, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm (optional evening activities 6:00 pm -7:30 pm ) at Towson University (main campus, 10 West Burke Ave, Towson, MD, 21252).
- ★ **2024-2025 School Year Events**
  - Complete GenCyber Classroom Implementation Project

- Attend at least four B'More Secure Virtual Seminars (weekday evenings)
  - Attend at least two virtual team meetings with colleagues
- ★ **B'More Secure GenCyber Conference:** May 3, 2025 (Saturday, 10 am - 3 pm) in-person at Towson University. Share results of Classroom Implementation Project & network with colleagues.

### The WHY

Teachers who successfully complete the B'More Secure GenCyber program will receive a \$1,200 stipend (must be U.S. citizen or permanent resident), a new computer (which is theirs to keep) and (3) CPD credits. In addition, program participants will be members of an active learning community with access to peers engaged in cybersecurity teaching, TU faculty cybersecurity content experts, K-12 pedagogy coaches, near-peer classroom mentors for their students, support for cybersecurity certifications and access to hands-on cybersecurity equipment loaner kits for classroom use.

### The WHO

Any secondary teacher in Maryland with an interest in learning more about teaching cybersecurity and a willingness to design and incorporate cybersecurity into at least three lessons during the 2024-2025 school year are welcome. Teachers from any subject area are invited to apply and our primary audience is educators who currently know little to nothing about cybersecurity who want to learn more and grow their skills. We are particularly interested in increasing interest in cybersecurity in students traditionally underrepresented in cyber careers and fields of study (i.e. African American, Hispanic) and strongly encourage educators who work with these populations of students to apply.

### Applications

Apply using this link: <https://forms.gle/1LFNMK8ThTkYm9Hf6>.

Applicant's will need to request their principal's fill out a Principal Support Form and are responsible for forwarding this link to their principal: <https://forms.gle/taXnxzjuhbsBa7sK7>

Early-bird deadline for applying is April 4 and early-bird applicants will be notified of acceptance no later than April 11, 2024.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**I'm a middle or high school teacher and I don't yet know anything about cybersecurity. Can I apply?** YES! The B'More Secure GenCyber program is designed for participants who know nothing (or very little) about cybersecurity. The B'More Secure GenCyber program will introduce you to the fundamentals of cybersecurity and provide opportunities for you to find connections between cyber and the subjects/courses you currently teach. Email [GenCyber@towson.edu](mailto:GenCyber@towson.edu) if you have questions about the curriculum.



**I already teach cybersecurity. Will I learn anything new in this program?** While the workshop is designed primarily for those with little to no experience teaching cybersecurity, our sessions will be taught by TU faculty with expertise in the field, allowing you access to the latest information in cybersecurity. In addition, K-12 pedagogical experts are available to support you as you translate what you are learning into engaging classroom lessons. If you're still not sure if this workshop is a good fit for your experience level, please email [GenCyber@towson.edu](mailto:GenCyber@towson.edu) and we can set up a call to discuss.

**I don't live in Maryland. Can I still apply?** We are only able to accept educators who teach in Maryland schools. If you live outside of Maryland, but teach in a Maryland school you are eligible.

**I want to apply, but I'm not sure about the residential aspect of the Summer Camp. Do I have to stay on campus to be part of the program?** The Summer Camp is an intensive course designed to immerse participants in all things cyber for five full days with networking opportunities, games and workshops available during evening hours. Because of the immersive nature of the program, we are providing the option for all participants to stay on campus for the duration of the Summer Camp. However, participants are welcome to commute each day.

**Will I have to pay for room and board on TU's campus during the Summer Camp?** No. TU will cover all the costs of your housing. All participants will also receive free breakfast, lunch and dinner.



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**I'm worried that I will not get enough downtime during the intensive summer camp, especially if I'm staying in a dorm with other participants. Will there be opportunities for participants to relax and take some time to themselves?** Absolutely! While the Summer Camp will be an intensive learning experience with long days, participants will be provided with breaks and time to themselves. Additionally, each residential participant will be assigned their own room with their own bathroom.

**What if I can only attend some of the required sessions. Can I still participate?** All participants must attend all required sessions. This includes the Kick-Off meeting, five days of summer camp and culminating in the B'More Secure GenCyber Conference at the end of the school year. Participants will also need to attend (virtually) at least four GenCyber Webinars throughout the school year.

**I don't teach a cybersecurity course. Can I still apply?** Yes! You're our primary audience! We're looking for teachers from all subjects with a willingness to learn about cybersecurity. As part of the program, you will be developing and implementing three cybersecurity lessons. Since you will be designing the lessons, you can make them fit into your existing course curriculum.

**I don't serve student populations who are underrepresented in cyber fields and careers (e.g. African American and Hispanic students). Can I still participate?** Yes. All participating teachers must commit to highlighting the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion in cyber fields and careers. While we are particularly interested in increasing interest in cybersecurity in students traditionally underrepresented in cyber careers and fields of study (i.e. African American, Hispanic) and strongly encourage educators who work with these populations of students to apply, applications will be considered from teachers who serve any Maryland student population.

**I'm unsure if this is the right opportunity for me. How can I find out more about the program to determine if it is a good fit for my professional learning goals?** Reach out to Dr. Mary Stapleton at [GenCyber@towson.edu](mailto:GenCyber@towson.edu). She can answer any questions and put in touch with cyber faculty who can provide more details on the curriculum and learning goals of the program.

**How might COVID-19 affect the B'More Secure Gencyber program?** We will follow all state and local guidelines with respect to Covid safety and will update participants to any changes in programming as a result of Covid-related guidelines.

**I have a question that wasn't addressed in this document. Is there a real human being I can reach out to?** Yes! Email Dr. Mary Stapleton at [gencyber@towson.edu](mailto:gencyber@towson.edu) with your questions.