

4/23/2021

Dear Congressman Smith,

Brookdale Community College (Brookdale) is establishing a Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity Education (CECE) to expand our career and technical education in the high-growth fields of networking and cybersecurity, strengthen workforce preparation, and fuel economic growth throughout New Jersey and the region. Brookdale was designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE) by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through 2024. As one of New Jersey's two community colleges to hold this designation, the College is well positioned to establish the CECE, grow its cybersecurity and related technical education programs, and continue to prepare students for careers in these high-growth industries.

Brookdale's Associate of Applied Science degree in Network Information Technology includes specializations in Network Administration and Cybersecurity, and certificate programs in Cybersecurity, Local Area Networks (LAN)/Wide Area Networks (WAN), and Computer Repair. Enrollment has increased over the past two years even as overall College enrollment has declined. The CECE will enable the College to develop and add new advanced cybersecurity courses leading to two additional certificates in Cybersecurity Management (Industry Credential Certified Information Systems Security Professional) and Cybersecurity Auditor. Specifically, the CECE will enable Brookdale to develop new courses and stackable credentials to offer options and access for students looking to work or advance their careers in cybersecurity. The CECE will also increase the College's virtual lab environment from 32 concurrent users to 128 to provide much-needed hands-on training, which most employers view as a critical gap. The CECE will also expand classroom space increasing access for more students to be trained using state-of-the-art, industry-driven technology, in an environment updated and equipped to prepare students for immediate employment. The CECE will also be an attractive location for local, County and State cybersecurity meetings, and industry partners will be able to attend customized training in the state-of-the-art facilities.

Organizations in virtually every industry need cybersecurity professionals to help keep sensitive data and systems safe from malicious hackers, defend an ever-expanding security perimeter, and comply with regulatory mandates related to data security and privacy. In New Jersey, there are currently 13,273 cybersecurity job openings, according to [cyberseek.org](https://www.cyberseek.org), an interactive website that provides detailed data about supply and demand in the cybersecurity job market<sup>1</sup>. Current openings exist for the following positions: Cyber Security Analyst, Cyber Security Consultant, Cyber Security Manager/Administrator, Network Engineer/Architect, Vulnerability Analyst/Penetration Tester, Cyber Security Specialist/Technician, Information Technology Auditor, Cybersecurity Analyst and Investigator, Incident Analyst/Responder, and Cybersecurity Auditor. All of these in-demand positions will be attainable upon completion of Brookdale's Networking Information Technology AAS degree, or existing and planning certificates in Cybersecurity, LAN/WAN, Computer Repair, Cybersecurity Manager and Cybersecurity Auditor. Additionally, openings exist for Cyber Security Engineer, Systems Engineer, and Software Developer/Engineers, which require a four-year degree, attainable through completion of a Brookdale program and transfer to one of the universities within New Jersey with which Brookdale has an articulation agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cyberseek.org/heatmap.html> on March 26, 2021



## **The Proposed Project**

Brookdale's Gorman Hall South, a currently unused facility, has been identified to house the CECE. CECE will be outfitted with industry standard equipment, technology and furniture providing expanded and appropriate teaching spaces. The new classrooms will be designed to address a post-COVID world, with integrated audio/video capabilities that will enable the classrooms to be linked together and allow students to participate remotely, as needed. The CECE will be equipped with new computers with dual monitors available to faculty and students, an expanded virtual lab environment for hands-on learning, and a secure operations center, where students can practice on the equipment that is used in most cybersecurity jobs at the entry level.

The CECE will be staffed by a Center Director who will be part of the College's Engineering and Technology Division and who will be responsible for administering Center operations and ensuring excellence in cybersecurity academic program offerings. A Net Lab Administrator will assist faculty and students in using the virtual lab environment and update and maintain the system. The College will add a faculty member to the Networking and Cybersecurity Department to develop new curriculum and run the training and simulations.

## **Impact**

Brookdale's CECE will expand career opportunities for more than 300 students in the high-growth fields of networking and cybersecurity, add new pathways to job opportunities, strengthen workforce preparation, and fuel economic growth. This funding will enable Brookdale to address the critical shortage of trained cybersecurity professionals in demand in every sector of the economy. Increased capacity along with partnerships throughout the state, will make Brookdale and Monmouth County the premier destination for cybersecurity education, training, and professional development.

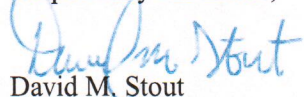
## **Budget and Request**

The total cost of the project is \$2,827,512 and Brookdale has identified \$450,345 in its operating budget to cover faculty time and some furnishing, and \$1,937,711 from State grant sources for facility renovations, security and cameras, and partial support of the virtual lab and furniture. **To help make this project a reality, Brookdale is seeking \$439,456 in Community Project Funding in the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill under the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education account.** Requested funding will cover the following:

- CECE Director: \$132,000
- Net Lab Administrator: \$52,000
- Virtual Lab licenses: \$79,960
- Virtual Lab hardware (servers and support) and Cisco connectivity: \$100,496
- Furniture, Equipment, and Technology for classrooms and community space: \$75,000

Thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Stout

President

Brookdale Community College



4/26/2021

Dear Congressman Smith,

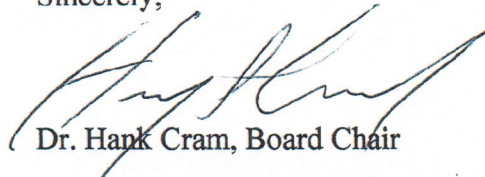
Please accept this letter in support of Brookdale Community College's request for Community Project Funding in the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill under the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. If approved, Brookdale will use the \$439,456 to expand cybersecurity education through the establishment of a Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity Education.

Brookdale is one of only two community colleges in New Jersey to be designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. As such, the College is very well positioned to prepare students for careers in the field of cybersecurity. Today, there are more than 13,000 cybersecurity job openings in New Jersey alone. Brookdale's Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity Education will prepare students to enter the cybersecurity field as analysts, administrators, technicians, auditors, investigators, and more.

Brookdale Community College's Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity Education will increase career opportunities for students in the high-growth fields of networking and cybersecurity, developed pathways to emerging cybersecurity jobs, fortify our defenses against cyber criminals, and contribute to economic growth. Through the development of this Center of Excellence, Brookdale will be able to address the dearth of trained cybersecurity professionals in demand in every sector of the economy. Augmented capacity and state-wide partnerships will make Brookdale and Monmouth County the foremost destination for cybersecurity education, training, and professional development.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Dr. Hank Cram, Board Chair

On behalf of the following members of the Brookdale Community College Board of Trustees:

Tracey Abby-White  
Latonya Brennan  
Suzanne Brennan  
Paul Crupi  
Dyese Davis  
Madeline Ferraro

Barbara Horl  
Bret Kaufmann, Vice Chair  
Marta Rambaud  
Dr. Lester Richens  
Hanna Walker, Graduate Trustee

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HALL OF RECORDS  
ONE EAST MAIN STREET  
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728  
TELEPHONE: 732-431-7000

4/26/2021

Dear Congressman Smith,

Please accept this correspondence as my letter of support of Brookdale Community College's request for \$439,456 in FY2021 Community Project Funding to establish a Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity Education.

As a designated National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Brookdale is well positioned to help fill in-demand cybersecurity jobs. Currently, there are more than 13,000 vacant cybersecurity jobs in New Jersey alone, such as cybersecurity analysts, cybersecurity auditors, vulnerability analysts, penetration testers, and incident analysts.

Approval of this Community Project Funding request will help prepare our residents for career opportunities in this high-growth field while simultaneously strengthening our defenses against cyber criminals.

I'm proud to support this request which will help make Brookdale Community College and Monmouth County a leader in cybersecurity education and training.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Arnone". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Thomas A. Arnone  
Monmouth County Commissioner Director

"SEPTEMBER 2d, 1609 THIS IS A VERY GOOD LAND TO FALL IN WITH AND A PLEASANT LAND TO SEE."

Entry in the log of Henry Hudson's Ship Half Moon made after the Dutch Explorer became the first European to come ashore in what was later known as Monmouth County





## NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SERENA DiMASO  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 13TH DISTRICT  
101 CRAWFORDS CORNER RD.  
SUITE 4332  
HOLMDEL, NJ 07733  
PHONE: (732) 444-1838  
FAX: (732) 444-1844  
aswdimaso@njleg.org

COMMITTEES  
BUDGET  
LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS & UTILITIES

April 26, 2021

Dear Congressman Smith,

I'm writing in support of Brookdale Community College's request for \$439,456 in FY2021 Community Project Funding to establish a Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity Education.

As a designated National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Brookdale is well positioned to help fill in-demand cybersecurity jobs.

Currently, there are more than 13,000 vacant cybersecurity jobs in New Jersey alone, such as cybersecurity analysts, cybersecurity auditors, vulnerability analysts, penetration testers, and incident analysts.

Approval of this Community Project Funding request will help prepare our residents for career opportunities in this high-growth field while simultaneously strengthening our defenses against cyber criminals.

I'm proud to support this request which will help make Brookdale Community College and Monmouth County a leader in cybersecurity education and training.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Serena DiMaso".

Assemblywoman Serena DiMaso  
13<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



## NEW JERSEY SENATE

**SAMUEL D. THOMPSON, Ph.D.**

SENATOR, 12<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

MONMOUTH, MIDDLESEX, OCEAN & BURLINGTON COUNTIES

2501 HIGHWAY 518, SUITE 101

OLD BRIDGE, NJ 08857

732-607-7580

FAX: 732-607-7879

EMAIL: [SenThompson@njleg.org](mailto:SenThompson@njleg.org)

### MEMBER - COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS

#### BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

#### EDUCATION

STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

NJ COMMISSION ON CAPITAL BUDGETING & PLANNING

JOINT COMMISSION ON THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MANDATED HEALTH BENEFITS ADVISORY COMMISSION

STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

TASK FORCE ON HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE IMPLEMENTATION

FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

PRETRIAL SERVICES PROGRAM REVIEW COMMISSION

April 27, 2021

Office of Congressman Smith  
Monmouth County District Office  
112 Village Center Drive  
Second Floor  
Freehold, NJ 07728

Dear Congressman Smith:

I am writing in support of Brookdale Community College's request for \$439,456 in FY2021 Community Project Funding to establish a Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity Education. As a designated National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Brookdale is well positioned to help fill in-demand cybersecurity jobs.

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I am proud to support this request, which will help make Brookdale Community College and Monmouth County a leader in cybersecurity education and training.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate in contacting me at (732) 607-7580.

Sincerely,

Samuel D. Thompson, Ph.D.

Senator

District 12

SDT/mbm





NEW JERSEY SENATE

ROBERT W. SINGER

SENATOR, DISTRICT 30  
DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

SenSinger@njleg.org

COMMITTEES

SENIOR REPUBLICAN MEMBER

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES

& SENIOR CITIZENS

MEMBER, TRANSPORTATION

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

PARTS OF MONMOUTH-OCEAN COUNTIES

1771 MADISON AVE.

SUITE 202

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(732) 987-5669

FAX: (732) 901-0567

1007 HWY 34

BLDG. C, SUITE 202

WALL, NJ 07719

(732) 974-0400

FAX: (732) 974-2564

4/26/2021

The Honorable Congressman Chris Smith

112 Village Center Drive

Second Floor

Freehold, NJ 07728

Dear Congressman Smith:

I am writing in support of Brookdale Community College's request for \$439,456 in FY2021 Community Project Funding to establish a Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity Education.

As a designated National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Brookdale is well positioned to help fill in-demand cybersecurity jobs. Currently, there are more than 13,000 vacant cybersecurity jobs in New Jersey alone, such as cybersecurity analysts, cybersecurity auditors, vulnerability analysts, penetration testers and incident analysts. Approval of this Community Project Funding request will help prepare our residents for career opportunities in this high-growth field while simultaneously strengthening our defenses against cyber criminals.

I am proud to support this request which will help make Brookdale Community College and Monmouth County a leader in cybersecurity education and training.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Singer  
Senator, District 30



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

April 28, 2021

Dear Congressman Smith,

I'm writing in support of Brookdale Community College's request for \$439,456 in FY2021 Community Project Funding to establish a Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity Education. As a designated National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Brookdale is well-positioned to help fill in-demand cybersecurity jobs.

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I'm proud to support this request which will help make Brookdale Community College and Monmouth County a leader in cybersecurity education and training.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerry Scharfenberger".

Gerry Scharfenberger, Ph.D.  
Assemblyman  
13<sup>th</sup> Legislative District





## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

VIN GOPAL  
Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> District  
Majority Conference Leader

April 28, 2021

Dear Congressman Smith,

I'm writing in support of Brookdale Community College's request for \$439,456 in FY2021 Community Project Funding to establish a Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity Education. As a designated National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Brookdale is well positioned to help fill in-demand cybersecurity jobs. Currently, there are more than 13,000 vacant cybersecurity jobs in New Jersey alone, such as cybersecurity analysts, cybersecurity auditors, vulnerability analysts, penetration testers, and incident analysts. Approval of this Community Project Funding request will help prepare our residents for career opportunities in this high-growth field while simultaneously strengthening our defenses against cyber criminals. I'm proud to support this request which will help make Brookdale Community College and Monmouth County a leader in cybersecurity education and training.

Should you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at [SenGopal@njleg.org](mailto:SenGopal@njleg.org), or by phone at (732) 695-3371. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Vin Gopal".

Vin Gopal  
Senator, 11th District