



## National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education

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Prof. Gary Sparks  
Metropolitan Community College  
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9 May 2018

Prof. Sparks:

I am pleased to inform you that the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security have designated Metropolitan Community College as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Two-Year Education (CAE2Y) through academic year 2023.

Your ability to meet the increasing demands of the program criteria will serve the nation well in contributing to the protection of the National Information Infrastructure. The Presidents' National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace, 14 February 2003 and the International Strategy for Cyberspace, May 2011, addresses the critical shortage of professionals with these skills and highlights the importance of higher education as a solution to defending America's cyberspace. "Like all nations, the United States has a compelling interest in defending its vital national assets, as well as our core principles and values, and we are committed to defending against those who would attempt to impede our ability to do so." Education is the key to promoting these ideals.

Certificates will be presented during a designation ceremony on 6 June 2018 at the National Cyber Summit to be held in Huntsville, Alabama. The conference will be held from 5 – 7 June, with a CAE Principals Meeting on 5 June. Details on the conference are in the attached email notification. We appreciate your participation in this program and look forward to seeing you in June.

Sincerely,

|s|

Karen Leuschner  
National CAE Cyber Defense Program Director, NSA