
News Release: Fayetteville Technical Community College hosts National Cyber Director Harry Coker Jr. at cyber-employment event

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Fayetteville Technical Community College hosted National Cyber Director Harry Coker Jr. on Wednesday, March 20, welcoming the White House official in a day-long event focused on spotlighting the work happening in North Carolina to strengthen the state's cyber ecosystem.

Joining FTCC as host was the Carolina Cyber Network, a coalition of 18 two- and four-year higher education institutions committed to building a workforce pipeline to meet the needs of the booming field of cybersecurity.

The event was particularly focused on encouraging veterans, military-connected spouses and students who don't necessarily have a four-year degree to pursue good-paying jobs in cyber.

In public remarks delivered to more than 200 veterans, military-connected spouses, students and stakeholders in the North Carolina cyber community, Director Coker stated that more than 450,000 jobs have been created in the state during the Biden-Harris Administration, and today more than 18,000 cyber jobs are available in North Carolina in critical industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, education and finance.

"The partnership between Fayetteville Technical Community College, as part of the Carolina Cyber Network, serves as a beacon – creating a robust ecosystem that helps expand opportunities for all students – and especially impressive is the support for military spouses and upskilling and reskilling of transitioning veterans in the cyber workforce here in North Carolina and across the country," Director Coker said.

Rob Shriver, Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management, also delivered public remarks, encouraging job-seekers in the cyber field, especially those with military connections, to consider a career with the federal government.

The program also featured Maj. Gen. Colin P. Tuley, 18th Airborne Corps Deputy Commanding General at Fort Liberty, who poignantly shared how veterans and military-connected spouses bring a service-oriented sense of duty and mission to their post-service careers, including in cybersecurity.

Elizabeth O'Brien, executive director of Hiring Our Heroes, also spoke. A recording of the program is available at <https://youtu.be/euXG4CNCaog>.

FTCC President Dr. Mark Sorrells thanked everyone for coming: "We really appreciate your participation in this very important conversation as we work to create greater resiliency in our state, in our nation, to protect our national interests" in cybersecurity areas.

While at FTCC, Director Coker also sat down with a diverse group of veterans, military-connected spouses and FTCC students who are pursuing cyber careers to learn from their experiences and hear why they are pursuing a career in cyber. He visited the Cyber Career Expo jointly hosted by CCN and FTCC featuring 15 employers from the private sector, local government and academia all aiming to hire FTCC students.

Director Coker visited an ecosystem roundtable with local cyber industry stakeholders where he heard first-hand about the challenges and opportunities their organizations face. He noted innovative solutions that have worked in North Carolina to expand their cyber workforce pipeline.

- The [Office of the National Cyber Director \(ONCD\)](#) is located in the White House and advises the President on cybersecurity policy and strategy. Director Coker has led the office since being confirmed by the Senate in December.
- [Fayetteville Technical Community College](#) is the third largest community college in the 58-unit state system. FTCC, a recognized National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense, is a co-founder of the Carolina Cyber Network. Nearly 29 percent of FTCC's curriculum students are military veterans, active-duty service members or military family members.
- The [Carolina Cyber Network](#) is a coalition of 18 two-year and four-year colleges and universities in North Carolina that focuses on training workers for the critical cybersecurity needs of the state's public and private sectors.

To view more photos from this event, please visit <https://www.faytechcc.edu/blog/photos-national-cyber-director-harry-coker-jr-visits-ftcc/>

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National Cyber Director Harry Coker speaks at Fayetteville Technical Community College on March 20.jpg
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