FACT SHEET

About the California Cyber Innovation Challenge

For the third year in a row, Cal Poly is hosting the California Cyber Innovation Challenge (CCIC), June 21-23. The CCIC is the high school cybersecurity championship for the state of California. This year, hundreds of schools competed to participate in the championship — only 29 teams qualified.

The CCIC impacts students across all demographics and has quadrupled in size over the last four years. Cal Poly collaborates with organizations already focused on “California for All” such as the Sector Navigators, Mayor’s Cup and the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). There is no modern crime without a cyber component. With progressively sophisticated cyberattacks and e-crime on the rise, a unified effort is needed to protect our critical infrastructure, economy and citizens.

The CCIC is designed to raise up the next generation of cybersecurity professionals by increasing their cyber fluency, professional experience, cyber ethics, cyber citizenship or knowledge of their online rights as well as privileges and responsibilities, and interest in cyber careers. This unique event stimulates interest in becoming a cyber professional and informs students of multiple pathways to well-paying jobs through apprenticeships, community colleges and other state-based universities.

The CCIC takes place in a live-immersive environment that represents real-world scenarios. Many of the cyber coaches and students commented that the immersive environment differentiates the CCIC from the traditional format of cyber, capture the flag and Cyber Patriot competitions. Another unique characteristic of the CCIC is student teams are required to present their findings to a panel of judges, which helps them develop their communication skills.

CCIC Growth Map

The 2019 competition will feature 29 teams in two divisions. The map on this page represents the competition’s growth over the last four years which has quadrupled since its beginning in 2016.

CCIC Timeline and History

2016 – The first California Cyber Innovation Challenge (CCIC) took place at Sacramento City College. The event featured eight teams.

2017 – Cal Poly hosted the CCIC. The event increased in size to 20 teams, two days and eight judges. The judges were from government, industry, military and law enforcement. The event featured a digital mobile forensics exercise featuring 16 Subaru Outback sport utility vehicles.

2018 – Cal Poly hosted the CCIC for the second year in a row. The number of competition judges increased to 12. Twenty teams competed in an immersive, medical set design.

2019 – Cal Poly will host the CCIC for the third year in a row. This year’s event increased to 29 teams in two divisions, 25 judges and six ambassadors.
Cal Poly’s California Cybersecurity Institute’s Mission

The California Cybersecurity Institute teaches Californians to protect California through cybercrime forensics and statewide tactical response training. The program helps shape California’s cyber standards and practices by offering an environment for cyber defense innovation through advanced study and basic and applied research on emerging issues and technical challenges. The California Cybersecurity Institute serves as an extended Learn by Doing space for Cal Poly students to explore new cyber technologies and train and test tactics side by side with law enforcement professionals and cyber forensics experts.

As an extension of Cal Poly’s Cybersecurity Center, the CCI aims to educate the next generation cyber workforce and provide faculty and students with a new, hands-on research and learning environment. Located on a secure military installation halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, the CCI offers an incomparable environment for cyber research and training. Recent and current projects underway at the CCI focus on everything from next-generation cloud computing infrastructures and critical infrastructure protection to smart grids and digital evidence storage.

Learn more at cci.calpoly.edu.

About Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Cal Poly is a nationally ranked, four-year, comprehensive public university located in San Luis Obispo, halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles on California’s Central Coast. Known for its Learn by Doing approach, small class sizes and open access to expert faculty, Cal Poly is a distinctive learning community whose 21,000 academically motivated students enjoy an unrivaled, hands-on educational experience that prepares them to lead successful personal and professional lives. Cal Poly is consistently ranked a top university for academics, value and graduate salaries. For more information, visit calpoly.edu.

“The CCI teaches Californians to protect California.”

— Martin Minnich
California Cybersecurity Institute
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2019
Contact: Jimmy Baker
Director of Industry Outreach
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Cal Poly Hosts Statewide Cybersecurity for 29 Middle and High School Teams

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — For the third year in a row, Cal Poly will host the California Cyber Innovation Challenge (CCIC) on June 21-23, 2019.

The CCIC is a California-focused, statewide cybersecurity competition where 29 high school teams compete in two divisions. The CCIC is conducted through live-immersive environments representing real-world scenarios. It is designed to raise up the next generation of cybersecurity professionals by increasing their cyber fluency, professional experience, and interest in digital forensics. After the teams compete in the cyber competition, they present their findings to a panel of judges from the technology marketplace, government, law enforcement, military, and academia.

“In addition to training students on cyber forensics, we will provide hands-on learning opportunities for the next generation of cyber defenders,” said Cal Poly’s California Cybersecurity Institute Director William J. “Bill” Britton.

Throughout the spring, teams of high school students from across California competed in regional Mayors Cyber Cup challenges. Winners from the designated regional cybersecurity competitions earn automatic entry to the statewide tournament at Cal Poly. The other competitors come from an “at-large” selection process that will draw teams from areas that do not currently have regional competitions. The competition has quadrupled in size over the last four years.

The public is invited to observe the 2019 CCIC by registering at tinyurl.com/CCIC2019.
We are open to working with local school districts on media opportunities in advance of the event. We also invite local media to connect with us. Contact James Baker at jbaker30@calpoly.edu or 805-756-2948.

Stay informed with our CCI newsletter.

Follow us on social media: @calpolycci
TEAMS

The following California school teams will compete in the 2019 California Cyber Innovation Challenge:

- Achieve Charter, Paradise
- Assurance Learning Academy, Lancaster (DoubleSimplex)
- Benjamin Franklin High School, Los Angeles (Voyager)
- California High School, San Ramon (CyberSharks)
- Coast Union High School, Cambria (Coast1)
- CORE Butte High School, Chico (HyperLynx2)
- Del Norte High School, San Diego (CyberAegis Aether, CyberAegis Chobani, CyberAegis Hyperion and CyberAegis Zelos)
- Gavilan High School, Gilroy
- Granada High School, Livermore (Purple Narwhals)
- Granada Hills Charter High School (Granada1)
- Grand Terrace High School (CyberBois)
- James C Enochs High School, Modesto (DuBois)
- Jesuit High School, Carmichael (R4808N)
- Martin Luther King High School, Riverside (MLKTeam1)
- Mira Costa High School, Manhattan Beach (RAWSUGAR)
- North Hollywood High School (Mendenhall)
- Palos Verdes Peninsula High School, Rolling Hills Estates (PantherTeam1)
- Roseville High School (I am g/)
- Santa Lucia Middle School, Cambria (SLMS1)
- Scripps Ranch High School, San Diego (ByteSized Falcons)
- Toby Johnson Middle School, Elk Grove (Anime Club)
- Multiple schools, Bay Area (TriValley CoderDojo)
- Troy High School, Fullerton (BletchleyPark and TroyTechSupport)
- Turlock High School (Turlock NJROTC)
- Ukiah High School (MAJORCats)

The public is invited to observe the 2019 CCIC by registering at tinyurl.com/CCIC2019.
JUDGES

The following judges are invited by Cal Poly’s California Cybersecurity Institute to share their industry knowledge and judge the final presentations of all teams competing in the 2019 Cyber Innovation Challenge:

- Amy Kardel, Co-founder, Clever Ducks
- Casey Ellis, Chief Technology Officer and Founder, Bugcrowd
- Cyndi Lang, CCSA Service Area Director of IT/Data Security Officer, Dignity Health
- Ed Hudson, Chief Information Security Officer, The California State University
- Hardik Parekh, Chief Information Security Officer, Splunk
- James Lantzy, Digital Future Academic Engagement and Outreach, US Federal Government
- Jay Coggan, Brigadier General, California State Military Reserve
- Jay Iyer, Distinguished Engineer Security Business Group, Cisco
- Jesse Holland, Sr. Control Systems Cybersecurity, Disney Land Resort
- Kurt Alaybeyoglu, Senior Associate, Chertoff Group
- Mark Kosier, Co-founder and Chief Information Security Officer, Tech+Equation
- Mark Moreno, Regional Solutions Manager, SHI International Corp.
- Metta Dollar, Vice President of Corporate Talent Acquisition, Parsons
- Nia Jetter, Technical Fellow, Boeing
- Matthew Linzer, Information Security Manager, University of California Office of the President
- Paula Hodge, Regional Director, Deputy Sector Navigators
- Rob Swift, Division Manager, Central Coast Cyber Forensics Laboratory
- Ryan White, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force, Vandenberg AFB
- Stephan Pfistner, Information Security Engineer, Google
- Ulf Lindqvist, Sr. Technical Director, SRI
- Vitaliy Panych, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer, California Office of Information Security
- Wendy Dinova-Wimmer, Sr. Digital Media Architect, Adobe
- Marcos Della, Principal Network/Security Architect, Sail Internet
- Laura Chappell, Founder, Wireshark University

The public is invited to observe the 2019 CCIC by registering at tinyurl.com/CCIC2019. If you’re interested in judging the 2020 CCIC, contact Jimmy Baker at 805-756-2948 or jbaker30@calpoly.edu.
AMBASSADORS

The following ambassadors are invited by Cal Poly’s California Cybersecurity Institute to represent their organization as well as share their professional experience and knowledge with students and other participants at the 2019 California Cyber Innovation Challenge:

- Brett Hartman, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Cisco
- Dawn Theodora, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief Counsel- Business and Finance, California State University
- Dr. Elizabeth Lowham, Department Chair, Cal Poly Political Science
- Nina Alli, Board Member, BioHacking Village
- Beau Woods, Board Member, BioHacking Village
- Olivia Kosier, Tech+Equation
- Ben Orencia, Regional Manager, Okta

The public is invited to observe the 2019 CCIC by registering at tinyurl.com/CCIC2019. If you are interested in being an ambassador at the 2020 CCIC, contact Jimmy Baker at 805-756-2948 or jbaker30@calpoly.edu.
“The forensics challenge of the CCIC is a truly integrated cybersecurity experience. Successful teams in the forensics challenge not only have strong cybersecurity skills but also need good teamwork, critical thinking and communication skills. These interdisciplinary competitions help create opportunities for a wide variety of students to pursue career pathways in cybersecurity.”

– John Oliver, Ph.D., Cal Poly Associate Professor and Director of the Computer Engineering Program

“The Biohacking Village is excited to be a part of this year’s California Cyber Innovation Challenge (CCIC). The Biohacking Village (BHV) celebrates global health ingenuity arising from maker and medical device communities with the dynamic perspective of emerging biology, technology and human enhancement. This year’s CCIC demonstrates the critical relationship between technology and healthcare.”

– Biohacking Village Board Members Nina Alli and Beau Woods

“In addition to training students on cyber forensics, the California Cyber Innovation Challenge provides hands-on learning opportunities for the next generation of cyber defenders.”

– Cal Poly’s California Cybersecurity Institute Director William J. “Bill” Britton

“We are thrilled to have Achieve Charter join this year’s competition. The Cal Poly community admires the students and the Town of Paradise’s resolve and spirit as they rebuild their lives after the devastating fires.”

– Cal Poly’s California Cybersecurity Institute Program Manager Martin Minnich

“They already know that they really enjoy technology. Now our students can understand that they can actually do a lot with it if they want to pursue it as a career.”

– Achieve Charter School Coach Jorge Rojas

“The CCIC is the high school cyber championship for the state of California. For the last three years, I have supported, as well as designed, network challenges for this important California event. It is vital that we upskill the next generation of cyber defenders. As a coach, educator, mentor and supporter of my region’s Deputy Sector Navigator, my goal is to be an ambassador for our young people interested in the field. The CCIC’s immersive environment makes this competition unlike any other cyber event. In 2019, we are focusing on cybersecurity in the healthcare arena. A special addition this year is that the Coast Union High School students have developed a cyber bear badge with an industry partner, who is a cybersecurity compliance manager. My passion is to help train and excite young people who will protect our California cyberinfrastructure.”

– Henry Danielson, Director of Technology at Coast Unified School District, Technology Coordinator at California Cybersecurity Institute and Cal Poly Professor
“I truly enjoyed participating as a judge [at the 2018 CCIC]. The kids, students, coaches and event staff were all amazing! The event itself was stellar. I really enjoyed the opportunity to tour the event site with you, visit the various sets/scenarios, interact with other judges and meet and dialogue with some of the team coaches. The credentials, knowledge, and experience of the cadre of judges was outstanding! After the event, when I met my wife at another obligation, she asked, ‘Well, what’s your overall take away from the event?’ My response was simple and direct, ‘After watching these kids think and work together as teams ads well as witnessing their incredible curiosity and passion — I am delighted to report that our cyber future is in excellent hands.’”

– Dignity Health French Hospital Medical Center President and CEO Alan Iftiniuk

“For the last three years, Palo Alto Networks, the global cybersecurity leader, has supported Cal Poly’s California Cyber Innovation Challenge (CCIC). The CCIC is an amazing event that features our future cyber defenders in a live-immersive, hands-on digital forensics competition.”

– Palo Alto Networks Cybersecurity Academy Global Manager Dan Myers

“For the third year in a row, Cal Poly will host hundreds of high school and middle school students and test their ability to solve cybercrimes in the California Cyber Innovation Challenge (CCIC). I am honored to help support this year’s CCIC that features students throughout our great state in this one-of-a-kind cyber competition. This is the perfect opportunity to meet and enable the next generation of cyber defenders we all depend upon.”

– Vitaliy Panych, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer for the California Department of Technology’s Office of Information Security

“Bugcrowd is pleased to be a part of this year’s California Cyber Innovation Challenge. Over the last two years, Bugcrowd has supported Cal Poly’s California Cybersecurity Institute. The upcoming CCIC is a fantastic event that provides students the opportunity to deal with real-world scenarios and cyber threats.”

– Bugcrowd Chairman, Founder and CTO Casey Ellis
PRESS BRIEFING

Date: Saturday, June 22, 2019

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: California Cybersecurity Institute

Camp San Luis Obispo

10 Sonoma Ave., Building 631, Room 113

San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Agenda:

11:30 a.m. CCIC Briefing

11:45 a.m. Tour of California Cybersecurity Institute

12:15 p.m. Opening Ceremonies for the 2019 CCIC

1:00 p.m. Scheduled Interviews

Register for the press briefing at 2019ccicpressbriefing.eventbrite.com. Please plan to arrive a minimum of 20 minutes early to gain base access and park. In order to access Camp San Luis Obispo, you will need to provide your vehicle’s registration card, proof of insurance and driver’s license. For more information, contact Jimmy Baker at jbaker30@calpoly.edu or 805-756-2948.