

Ideas for Career Awareness

TOPIC: CAREER AWARENESS

GRADES: 9-12

LESSON DURATION: N/A

Introduction:

- Due to the fractured environment of the high school and the fact that students take a variety of diversified courses, it is hard to mandate career awareness into the curriculum. However the following represent ideas/options of how to insert cybersecurity career awareness into the 9-12 environment.

Activities:

1. Freshman/Sophomore Career Fair-attempt to invite an Information Security Analyst/Officer from the local community. FBI agents or state troopers are also experienced in cybersecurity/digital forensics and would be engaging with the students. Think outside the box and try to find emerging career fields so that students can see a variety of jobs that may not make headlines.
2. Consider guest speakers in the social studies department. All fields of the military now use cyber experts to do things that we have never heard of. Most schools have graduates who enlisted or went to an academy. Although this may require a Skype session, the stories that our servicemen and women can tell will engage the students and perhaps motivate them to think of other career options.
3. English/Speech class can do a career option essay/speech in which students have to research careers of their choosing and present information in an academic way. The teacher can make sure to present tech and cyber fields as an option. Allowing students to become the person (in character) will make the speeches and the research more entertaining. Allow students to choose role models whose careers interest them in some fashion.
4. Electives are readily available. Guest speakers, presentations, research assignment, etc can be done in these electives to make sure students understand that cybersecurity is a rapidly expanding field with many opportunities. For example, in psychology class, the teacher may try to find a local "expert" in the area of social engineering. In a computer science course, the teacher may consider local academia or law enforcement who can talk about research or applicable skills.
5. Develop an apprenticeship or job shadowing program with local resources. Allow students to spend a day "on the job." Although allowing job shadowing in certain careers may be hard due to confidentiality, perhaps with some advance scheduling, students could shadow on a date in which sensitive data/information would not be displayed.
6. Utilize TedTalks on cybersecurity and technology topics to get students engaged in current events. TedTalks are a great way for students to understand current issues while learning from "experts."

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7. Be aware of summer camps and outreach opportunities for students in the areas of technology, engineering, and cybersecurity. Summer camps are a great way for students to get experience in a field while meeting others with similar interests.

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