

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD students immersed in day of cybersecurity career opportunities

Office of
Communications

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Charleston, SC - The SC Tech Logistics/Maritime Cybersecurity Mentorship Forum was held at the Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. SC Competes organized the event, with support from the Maritime Cybersecurity NSF Innovation Engine, for students from Charleston County School District (CCSD) high schools interested in cybersecurity. Juniors and seniors explored cybersecurity and critical technologies career opportunities, particularly within the logistics and maritime sectors.

Keynote Speaker, Claire Allen with Integrated Baseline Review, Defense Growth Lead was joined by industry leaders to discuss challenges and opportunities in maritime cybersecurity. The event offered participants a unique experience to learn from industry leaders, build professional skills, and connect with potential mentors in their communities. The Forum's goal is to create excitement and interest in the high-growth field of cybersecurity while providing tools for career readiness.

The day consisted of break-out sessions with discussions on LinkedIn tips and resume writing, elevator speeches and networking essentials, and career goal-setting and job search strategies. The program culminated in a panel discussion about the importance of mentorships and a chance to informally network with panelists, speakers, and mentors.

"Opportunities like this share the good news that students' talent is in demand," said Chad Vail, CCSD's Work-based Learning Partnerships Coordinator with the Career & Technical Education Support Team. "They also build important awareness of the wide range of career opportunities that await them after graduation, right here in the Charleston region."

Jamie DeMent, Director of Technology & Cybersecurity Initiatives at SC Competes, said seeing the students' curiosity and enthusiasm as they explored careers in tech, cybersecurity, and maritime industries was inspiring.

"The engagement from our mentors and their eagerness to do more reinforced the power of mentorship in shaping the future workforce," added DeMent. "We are excited to keep this momentum going and continue building and supporting our talent pipeline."

Susie Shannon, President & CEO of SC Competes, said they intend to continue to leverage their SC Tech and SC Logistics industry and academic partners to work with schools and students to create awareness and skills in these higher-paying jobs while also helping to protect our critical infrastructure and assets.

For more information contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.