

# Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

Professor Birol Yeşilada, Director

Professor Reza Rejaie, Associate Director

Associate Professor Rakesh Bobba, Associate Director

Mr. Oliver Grant, Finance and Operations Manager

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025





# Current State of Environment

- FBI data shows that cybercrimes cost Americans **\$12.5B** in 2023—a figure that has grown annually for at least five years. In 2023, it took an average of 204 days to identify a data breach and an additional 73 days to contain such breach. Data breaches with life cycles of less than 200 days cost **\$3.93M** on average, while data breaches with life cycles of more than 200 days cost **\$4.95M** on average, a 23% difference. Early detection and response are key.
- FBI data also shows the average cost of cyber attacks on Oregon individuals is estimated at **\$14K** per adult. Further, in 2023 the cost of cybercrime in Oregon was **\$136M** making it number 22 in the nation. In addition to the financial cost is serious cash flow crunch for hospitals and clinics as well as reputational harm.
- Specific examples include Tillamook county who paid **\$300K** to regain data access after a cyber attack; Curry county which paid **\$500K** to restore digital files lost in a cyber attack; and the Oregon DMV where **3.5M** driver's licenses and identification cards were compromised when the agency was hacked.



# Purpose of OCCOE

The purpose of the Center is to supplement the activities of the State of Oregon's Chief Information Officer regarding cybersecurity in Oregon by coordinating, funding, or providing:

- **Awareness, education, and training** about cybersecurity and cybersecurity-related issues for public, private and nonprofit sectors,
- Cybersecurity **workforce development** programs in coordination with:
  - Public universities listed in ORS 352.002
  - Community colleges operated under ORS chapter 341, and
  - Science, technology, engineering and mathematics and career and technical education programs.
- **Research** about:
  - Research about cybersecurity education and training methodologies,
  - Research and development of cybersecurity technologies, tools, policies, and processes, and
- **Cybersecurity-related goods and services** to public bodies, with priority given to local governments, regional governments, special districts, education service districts, school districts, and libraries.



# Achievements Since September 2024

## Center Achievements

- Major progress in creation of **TSOC** at UO
  - Hiring an SOC engineer
  - Developing the initial curriculum and services
  - Exploring partnership with major vendors
  - Assessing needs of local stakeholders in Lane county
- **ORTSOC** at OSU
  - In talks with or engaged 4 additional partners
  - Currently served include: 2 rural ESDs, 4 small-to-medium Oregon cities, 1 Oregon county, 3 regional educational institutions
  - Training 35+ students this AY
- Participated and Sponsored **TAO Fall Expo**
  - 5 General Sessions and 6 Different Tracks
  - 90 Min Real Life Table Top Exercise
  - Students and Industry Leaders in Attendance
- Hired new Sr. Program Manager for NW Cyber Camps
- Hired new Network Analyst for UO

## Additional \$1.7M Funding

- Workforce Ready Round III: Technology
  - Expands Certificate Program to cover Nine Oregon Tribes
  - Awarded **\$604,378** expires 6/30/26
- Mentoring HS students to pursue Cybersecurity training
  - Establishing Cybersecurity curriculum in Oregon High Schools
  - Awarded **\$500,000** expires 6/30/26
- GenCyber Camp 2024
  - Expanded funding for NW Cyber Camps for another year
  - Awarded **\$552,163** expires 12/31/26

|      |              |               |             |
|------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| PSU  | \$173,472.51 | OIT           | \$73,998.64 |
| COCC | \$59,367.74  | OSU - Student | \$90,000.00 |
| UO   | \$65,324.56  | OSU - Teacher | \$90,000.00 |



# Recorded Testimonials & Endorsements

## Recorded Testimonials

- **City of Lebanon** - Brent Hurst
- **City of Tualatin** - Bates Russel
- **Malheur Education Service District** - Randy Seals

## Endorsements from:

Skip Newberry, President & CEO  
Technology Association of Oregon



February 9, 2025

The Honorable and Member:  
U.S. House Senate  
211 East Franklin Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
U.S. House Senate  
211 East Franklin Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Letter of Support – Portland State University FY 2026 Funding Request

Dear Senators Wyden and Menendez:

On behalf of the Technology Association of Oregon (TAO), I write to express support for Portland State University's fiscal year (FY) 2026 community project funding request to create a training program on cybersecurity and artificial intelligence awareness and resilience. This request has the ability to spur change, innovation in Portland and support local industry partners who will benefit from this investment.

PSU's request would include nine one-day long virtual introductory cybersecurity seminars followed by advanced certificate options. (Six 12-week non-credit cybersecurity readiness certificate and six credit of Portland State University or a selection of industry-based for high school students.) Participants will learn opportunities to engage in industry exposure, career change assistance, and internships with practitioners and practitioners and trainees from Oregon Guard, CISA, FBI, and private sector partner companies.

The creation of this training program will continue to strengthen the strong partnership between TAO and Portland State University. We are committed to partnering with local academic partners, like PSU, to invest in initiatives that enhance the quality of life and bring innovative opportunities for our local residents and industries.

Thank you for your consideration of PSU's FY 2026 community project funding request and we hope the Committee includes it in the appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

  
Skip Newberry  
President & CEO, TAO  
skip.newberry@taoconnect.org

Nolan Plese, Lobbyist  
League of Oregon Cities

Design: Evander ID: 536276P/4761487/4761487/1056276P



February 13, 2025

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
U.S. House Senate  
211 East Franklin Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Letter of Support – Portland State University FY 2026 Funding Request

Dear Senator Ron Wyden:

On behalf of the League of Oregon Cities (LOC), I write to express our support for Portland State University's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 community project funding request to create a training program on cybersecurity and artificial intelligence awareness and resilience. This request has the ability to spur greater innovation and awareness throughout Oregon and support cities and local industry partners who will benefit from this investment.

PSU's request would include nine one-day long virtual introductory cybersecurity seminars followed by advanced certificate options. (Six 12-week non-credit cybersecurity readiness certificate and six credit of Portland State University or a selection of industry-based for high school students.) Participants will learn opportunities to engage in industry exposure, career change assistance, and internships with practitioners and trainees from Oregon Guard, CISA, FBI, and private sector partner companies.

The creation of this training program will continue to strengthen the strong partnership between Oregon cities, the LOC, and Portland State University. We are committed to partnering with local academic partners, like PSU, to invest in initiatives that enhance the quality of life in our cities and bring innovative opportunities for our local residents and industries.

Thank you for your consideration of PSU's FY 2026 community project funding request and we hope the Committee includes it in the appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

  
Nolan Plese  
Lobbyist



Lobbyist, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC)



Nolan Plese | Lobbyist - League of Oregon Cities (LOC) | [nplese@loc.org](mailto:nplese@loc.org) | 503-438-7278

Beach Pace, Mayor  
City of Hillsboro



February 14, 2025

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
U.S. House Senate  
211 East Franklin Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
U.S. House Senate  
211 East Franklin Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Letter of Support – Portland State University FY 2026 Funding Request

Dear Honorable Senators Wyden and Merkley:

On behalf of the City of Hillsboro, I write to express support for Portland State University's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 community project funding request to create a training program on cybersecurity and artificial intelligence awareness and resilience. This request will ensure the ability to spur greater innovation and support local partners who will benefit from this investment.

PSU's request would include nine one-day long virtual introductory cybersecurity seminars followed by advanced certificate options. (Six 12-week non-credit cybersecurity readiness certificate and six credit of Portland State University or a selection of industry-based for high school students.) Participants will learn opportunities to engage in industry exposure, career change assistance, and internships with practitioners and trainees from Oregon Guard, CISA, FBI, and private sector partner companies.

The creation of this training program will continue to strengthen the strong partnership between the City of Hillsboro and Portland State University. We are committed to partnering with local academic partners, like PSU, to invest in initiatives that enhance the quality of life and bring innovative opportunities for our local residents and industries.

Thank you for your consideration of PSU's FY 2026 community project funding request and we hope the Committee includes it in the appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

  
Beach Pace  
Mayor

Hillsboro Oregon.gov | Phone: 503-681-6100 | 1000 West Main Street, Hillsboro, OR 97123

Frank Stratton, Executive Director  
Special District Association of Oregon



To: Member of the Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology

From: Frank Stratton, Executive Director  
Special District Association of Oregon

Date: February 23, 2025

Re: Support for the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence

I am writing on behalf of the Special District Association of Oregon (SDAO) to express our strong support for the continued funding of the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (OCCOE). The OCCOE is a critical resource that will significantly enhance the cybersecurity capabilities of Oregon's special districts, which include a wide range of public service entities such as water districts, fire districts, ports, towns, hospitals, and public utility districts.

Cybersecurity threats are becoming increasingly sophisticated and pervasive, posing significant risks to the essential services provided by our special districts. These entities often operate with limited resources and may not have the specialized expertise required to effectively protect against cyberattacks. Of the nearly 1,000 Oregon special districts, nearly 400 operate entirely with volunteers. Of the districts with paid staff, we estimate only 30 have full-time information technology staff. The OCCOE will serve as a central resource, offering much-needed support, training, and guidance to bolster the cybersecurity defenses of these vital public service organizations.

The benefits of the OCCOE to Oregon's special districts are manifold:

- Enhanced Security Posture:** By providing access to cutting-edge cybersecurity tools, best practices, and threat intelligence, the OCCOE will help special districts proactively identify and mitigate potential cyber threats.
- Training and Education:** The OCCOE will offer specialized training programs tailored to the unique needs of special districts, ensuring that staff are well-equipped to handle cybersecurity challenges and respond effectively to incidents.
- Collaboration and Information Sharing:** The OCCOE will facilitate collaboration and information sharing among special districts and other local governments, fostering a community of practice that can collectively address common cybersecurity risks and share solutions.
- Incident Response Support:** In the event of a cyber incident, the OCCOE will provide expert guidance and support to help special districts quickly respond and minimize the impact on their operations and the communities they serve.

P.O. Box 10800 • Salem, Oregon 97309-0800 | Phone: 503-591-3887 | Toll-free: 1-800-248-0000 | Fax: 503-591-3887 | [www.sdao.org](http://www.sdao.org)



# High Priorities for 2025-2027

1. **Expand ORTSOC** at OSU and TSOC at UO.
2. **Cyber Range** (location TBD)
  - Negotiations in place with private sector companies for sponsoring a Cyber Range for OCCOE for use by all sites and programs.
3. Funding for **non-credit cybersecurity certificate** for local and regional governments at PSU.
4. Hiring **Security Analysts** for incident reporting, assessment, information sharing, and best practices.
5. Expansion of OCCOE to include other participating **universities (i.e., OIT)**.
6. Expansion of **Outreach Awareness Programs** targeting communities.

# Additional Funding Needs for Expanding OCCOE Operations and Workforce Development



|                                    |   | Next Biennium      |                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Additional Asks                    |   | Year 1             | Year 2             | Total              |
| LGP                                | Local Grant Program                                   | \$375,000          | \$375,000          | \$750,000          |
| <b>Workforce Development</b>       |   |                    |                    |                    |
| Total                              | Expansion of Partner University & SOC                 | \$1,343,937        | \$1,370,772        | \$2,714,709        |
| ALL                                | Cyber Range Platform                                  | \$470,000          | \$880,000          | \$1,350,000        |
| ALL                                | Cyber Security Training for Secondary School Teachers | \$100,000          | \$100,000          | \$200,000          |
| <b>Total Workforce Development</b> |   | <b>\$1,913,937</b> | <b>\$2,350,772</b> | <b>\$4,264,709</b> |
| <b>Operating Funds</b>             |   |                    |                    |                    |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b>    |   | <b>\$674,103</b>   | <b>\$687,126</b>   | <b>\$1,361,229</b> |
| <b>NEXT BIENNIUM FUNDING ASK</b>   |   | <b>\$2,963,039</b> | <b>\$3,412,898</b> | <b>\$6,375,937</b> |

*^ \$5,625,937 without LGP*



Thank You for Listening



# APPENDIX

# Budget Allocation and Expenditures

## Operations - funds received in November 2023

- By end of June 30th, 2025
  - Spend = \$2,010K
  - Budget = \$2,500K
  - Variance = \$490K
- Expect to fully consume by November '25

## Grant Program Fund

- By end of June 30th, 2025
  - Spend = \$0
  - Budget = \$250K
  - Variance = \$250K
- Don't expect to fully consume until a process is put in place



## Workforce Development

- ORTSOC
- UO's undergraduate degree and certificate
- NW Cybercamp
- MHCC scholarship Fund
- By end of June 30th, '25
  - Spend = \$1,809K
  - Budget = \$2,150K
  - Variance = \$341K
- OSU and PSU to fully consume by November 2025
- UO to fully consume by April '26