**Missoula College Information Technology Program Advisory Board Minutes**

**12/9/2022**

**Attendees:**

* Victor Valgenti, Faculty, Missoula College
* Jeff Arends, Missoula College Faculty
* Jaron – ELM
* Jason Emery – Missoula County
* Alex – First Call
* Jeffrey – Axiom
* Alisia – Blackfoot
* John Neff – CISO at UM
* Grace Gardner – Directory of academic affairs at UM
* Wally Higgens – Missoula College Faculty

**Location**:

Blackfoot Café, Missoula College

1. **Welcome**
   1. Introductions
2. **Status of program**
   1. Missoula College Cyber, IT, and CS First Annual Speed networking Event
   2. Cybersecurity Challenge 10/28/2022
   3. NSA Center for Academic Excellence-Cyber Defense Renewal
   4. Revision of Certificate of Technical Studies in Cybersecurity
   5. Cybersecurity Highschool Innovations (CHI)
   6. Cybersec Outreach for grade schools
   7. Cybergymnasium
   8. CyberMontana—Dianne Burke
3. **Future of the Program**
   1. DevOps
      1. Class
      2. There is some demand for non-credit class
         1. In-person instruction preferred
         2. During the weekday
         3. Roughly one month long
         4. If it leads to an industry certification, we could justify a longer course
         5. We need to be careful about offering non-credit (Grace)
      3. Curriculum in cooperation with Helena College
   2. Cybersecurity Bachelor’s degree with College of Business
      1. This differs from the previous MIS certification in that it’s focused more on IT
   3. Increasing Certifications
      1. A+
      2. Security+
      3. EC-Council Partner
         1. Going to target Ethical Hacking Fundamentals
4. **Questions to the Board**
   1. How to better coordinate Internships?
      1. The County doesn’t get any calls, but they aren’t usually proactive about looking
      2. ELM hiring is need-based – it would be useful to have a list of candidates. It may be more useful to do the networking in the Fall (or both Spring and Fall)
   2. How can we begin coordinating data collection for Missoula College graduates and the overall quality of the program/graduates?
      1. Missoula County doesn’t get many applications, even for entry level jobs, how can this be better coordinated?
         1. Encourage students to apply even if they don’t feel qualified
         2. Showing that certifications are valued
         3. Instead of targeting the job, target the ladder (to the desired job)
5. **Open Discussion**
   1. Tracking former students
      1. Discord channel
      2. Linkedin search
      3. Alumni association
   2. Are badges valued?
      1. Depends on the position