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# News

Macomb County Executive  
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## Planning & Economic Development

### *For Immediate Release*

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Date: October 26, 2017

#### **Macomb County leads effort to develop talent pipeline for cybersecurity**

To keep pace with the growing workforce demand for qualified cybersecurity professionals, the Michigan Automotive and Defense Cyber Assurance Team (MADCAT) has launched an effort to attract and develop the necessary talent.

Funded by a grant through the Michigan Defense Center, MADCAT will incorporate a regional and statewide approach. Key partners include Macomb Community College, Wayne State University, Macomb Intermediate School District, TARDEC, Michigan Defense Center and General Dynamics Land Systems. The project will begin with a regional assessment to determine workforce needs.

“This information will enable us to orchestrate career pathway mapping, identify gaps in available training and support services, and create an action plan to increase coordination, service provision and transferability of cybersecurity education across the region,” said Vicky Rad, Deputy Director of Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development.

Ultimately, the project will result in articulation agreements between K-12, community colleges, universities and employers. This is part of a broad outreach campaign designed to increase youth interest in related cybersecurity educational pathways. MADCAT selected the services of Andy Stass of Synergistic, Inc. and Elaina Farnsworth to manage the project.

“The demand for skilled talent in cybersecurity is documented,” said Farnsworth. “Through multi-disciplinary partnerships, we will bring all the players together to coordinate activities and maximize impact.”

MADCAT is seeking employers and other training providers to get involved. Interested organizations should email [MADCAT@CAVTraining.com](mailto:MADCAT@CAVTraining.com).

About Michigan Automotive and Defense Cyber Assurance Team: MADCAT was formed in 2014 by the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development as a grassroots effort to bring together government, education, nonprofit and private sectors to address the growing cybersecurity demands of our primary industries. MADCAT’s purpose is to establish southeast Michigan as a cybersecurity Center of Excellence--where institutions work to develop and attract a cybersecurity talent pool to retain and attract businesses. For more information, visit [madcat.org](http://madcat.org).

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