

Mt. Hood Community College Theater
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GRESHAM

I am currently the Chief Information Security Officer at TriMet in Portland. My previous public sector roles were with the State of Oregon as Director of the State's Security Operations Center and I started in public sector service as the Information Security Officer for the Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority in 2016. With decades of information security experience in the private sector prior to 2016, I transitioned to public sector knowing that I would not have the same resources available for building cybersecurity programs. Federal and State partnerships and funding have been critical to the success that I have witnessed. And the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence has made a noticeable difference that has gained momentum in terms of overall impact.

As an example, at TriMet, I am hiring a cybersecurity intern this summer and I had the opportunity to interview a brilliant young person from Oregon State University just yesterday who worked in the ORTSOC which is the Nation's First Cybersecurity Teaching Hospital run out of the Oregon State University. The ORTSOC teaches advanced cybersecurity skills while also serving public sector entities such as small Oregon cities, counties and community colleges.

As a second tangible example, a few years ago, one of my former bosses at the State of Oregon (who I respect greatly) asked me to come speak at Portland State University on the topic of threats and vulnerabilities. That was my first exposure to the Cybersecurity Resilience Certificate program. I recall the class size was about 10 or 12 folks that first year. And it was an awesome mix of business leaders from local and county government as well as K thru 12. The current term that is coming to a close in the next couple weeks had about 50 people enrolled. This course helps public sector folks learn how to measure and understand cyber risk in their environments, it teaches them about free and low cost cybersecurity resources available to their organizations, and more. Most importantly, it is growing a larger, smarter community of public servants enabling Oregon to provide safer services.

These are just two examples that I have seen first-hand the impact that the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence has demonstrated. But for continued success, this organization needs funding. When the state fell short of funding what was asked for previously, the center of excellence was able to maintain and grow the Cybersecurity resilience certificate program I mentioned through federal funding via higher ed. As of this week, I think there is little to no chance that federal funding is coming. Oregon needs to ensure our own safety which includes cybersecurity. And funding of the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence is a smart and proven way to help get that good work done.

Thank you.