

CIS Networking Cybersecurity BLC- Follow-up on Curriculum Changes and Dual Credit Business and Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

CHAIRPERSON:		
MEETING DATE: May 15, 2026	MEETING TIME: 11:00 am	MEETING LOCATION: Online Teams Meeting
RECORDER: Traci Nowell	START TIME: 11:00 am	PREVIOUS MEETING: 11/21/2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: (P = Present) Add nonmembers to bottom of table with heading "Others Present."

P	Name and Title (List all)	Business Affiliation	Email	Best contact number
	Members			
P	Jesus Flores-Senior Data Center Technician	Soluna	jflores@soluna.io	(806) 881-1391
P	Carlos Quiroz-Senior Data Center Technician	Hut 8	cdquiroz7@gmail.com	(806) 437-9905
P	David Neeley-Card Systems Manager	Valero Payment Services	david.neeley@valero.com	806-324-4516
P	Michael Keough-Chief Technology Officer	Region 16	michael.keough@esc16.net	806-290-2061
P	Kyla Collier-CTO Owner	Kamino	kyla@kaminotech.com	806-576-8709
	Tiffany Lafleur- Enterprise Information System Security Manager	Pantex	tlafleur21@actx.edu	806-679-2375
	Jeff Stoughton- Instructor	AmTech	jeff.stoughton@amaisd.org	806-231-7008
	Trever Wagner- Instructor	AmTech	Trever.wagner@amaisd.org	806-881-9733
	Chandler Turner- Senior Software Developer	AQHA	contact@chandlerturner.com	806-223-3213

	Aaron Hayes	Valero	aaron.hayes@valero.com	
	Vijay Serrao-Cybersecurity Lead	City of Amarillo	Vijay.Serrao@amarillo.gov	
	Renea Doshier	Pantex	Renea.Doshier@pantex.doe.gov	
	Jandi Tyson	Region 16	jandi.tyson@esc16.net	
	Shiloh Inthirath-IT Desktop Manager	BSA	shiloh.inthirath@bsahs.org	806-930-9870
	Jamey Spear-Service Desk Manager	Andrews & Associates	james.spear@andrewsama.com	806-242-1088
	Ashley Golden-Director, Information Technology	BSA	ashley.golden@bsahs.org	806-212-8552
	Steve Sellers-Educational Partnership	Pantex	james.sellars@pantex.doe.gov	806-282-3162
	Rich Gagnon-CIO	City of Amarillo	rich.gagnon@amarillo.gov	806-471-1516
	Brad Sanders-Owner	Westgate Computers	bsanders@westgatecomputers.com	806-570-2226
	Slater Lamb-CEO	Kamino	slater@kaminotech.com	806-553-0303
	David Payne- Application Development	Valero	David.payne2@valero.com	512-201-0242
	Michael Chambers	Stanley Black & Decker	mdchambers21@actx.edu	
	Others Present-Ex-Officio			
P	Dr. Frank Sobey	AC- Vice President of Academic Affairs	fesobey@actx.edu	806-345-5518
P	Edie Carter	AC- Executive Dean of STEM and Academic Success	elcarter@actx.edu	806-371-5335
P	Holly Hicks	AC- Academic Advisor-Business Administration, Business Technology, Computer Information Systems	hlhicks@actx.edu	806-371-5383

P	Karen Boatman	AC- CIS Department Chair Assistant Professor	keboatman@actx.edu	806-371-5930
P	Delane McUne	AC- CIS Instructor	S0059629@actx.edu	806-371-5220
P	Joseph Melius	AC- CIS Instructor	jamelius@actx.edu	806-371-5213
P	Lynne Kenney	AC- CIS Instructor	L0504159@actx.edu	806-371-5275
	Dr. Carol Buse	AC- CIS Instructor	acbuse@actx.edu	806-371-5619
P	Chris George	AC- CIS Instructor	C0245396@actx.edu	806-371-5374
P	Traci Nowell	AC- CIS Administrative Assistant	Traci.nowell@actx.edu	806-371-5934

Minutes	
Key Discussion Points	Discussion
Old Business:	
Continuing Business:	
New Business:	
Curriculum Decisions:	
Other:	<p>Networking & Cybersecurity Business Leadership Council (BLC) Meeting Summary The Networking and Cybersecurity Business Leadership Council meeting focused on current cybersecurity industry challenges, new workforce training initiatives, curriculum development, and continued collaboration between Amarillo College and industry partners.</p> <p>Cybersecurity Industry Context The meeting opened with discussion regarding a recent cybersecurity incident that impacted approximately 8,000 schools and districts, resulting in temporary shutdowns of Canvas LMS systems to prevent further compromise. Christopher George emphasized the significance of the event as an example of the increasing demand for skilled cybersecurity professionals and the importance of preparing students to respond to evolving cyber threats.</p> <p>New Data Center Technician Training Program Christopher George introduced a new accelerated Data Center Technician training program funded through the Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE) grant. Key details shared included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program start date: May 26 • Current enrollment: 12 students

- Tuition and certification exams fully funded through the grant
- Class schedule designed for working students:
 - Tuesday and Thursday evenings
 - Saturday daytime sessions

The program is structured around three industry-recognized certifications:

- CompTIA A+
- Linux Essentials
- CompTIA Server+

The curriculum is designed to provide hands-on training and workforce-ready technical skills aligned with regional data center employment needs.

Curriculum and Industry Feedback

Industry partners provided recommendations to strengthen the curriculum and better align training with real-world expectations.

Discussion topics included:

- Expanding enterprise-level networking concepts beyond basic networking fundamentals
- Incorporating stronger networking protocols and infrastructure content similar to CCNA-level exposure
- Increasing emphasis on physical security, policies, procedures, and secure facility operations within data center environments

Industry representatives noted that these skills are critical within modern cybersecurity and data center operations. Amarillo College faculty acknowledged the recommendations and discussed integrating additional networking and physical security components into future curriculum updates.

Emerging Cybersecurity Trends

The council discussed the rapid evolution of cybersecurity threats and defense strategies, particularly the growing role of artificial intelligence in cybersecurity operations.

Discussion points included:

- The industry shift toward AI-driven cybersecurity defense models
- The importance of monitoring emerging AI-enabled threat activity
- The need for educational programs to evolve alongside industry practices and technologies

Faculty indicated they are actively monitoring industry frameworks and trends to ensure students receive current and relevant training.

Academic Pathways and Student Advancement

Karen Boatman reminded attendees that Occupational Skills Awards (OSAs) earned through workforce programs and the Innovation Outpost can be applied toward Amarillo College academic degrees.

The council emphasized that:

- Students can transition from workforce certifications into degree pathways without losing credit
- The model supports long-term career growth and continued education
- The college aims to minimize barriers for students returning to complete academic credentials after entering the workforce

	<p>Continued Industry Collaboration</p> <p>Delane McOne shared that the current grant requires ongoing engagement with industry partners approximately every three months. Additional meetings and updates will continue throughout the year, with the next formal meeting anticipated in the fall.</p> <p>Christopher George encouraged industry members to continue sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce needs • Emerging technologies • Skills gaps observed in employees or graduates • Recommendations for curriculum improvement <p>The meeting concluded with appreciation for the continued partnership between Amarillo College and industry leaders in supporting workforce development across the region.</p>
Adjourn:	11:19 am

Committee Chairperson:	MEETING DATE: May 15, 2026	NEXT MEETING: Fall 2026
Recorder's Signature: <i>Traci Nowell</i>	DATE: 5/19/2026	
DEPARTMENTAL CHAIRPERSON SIGNATURE: <i>Karen Boatman</i>	DATE: 05/27/2026	
DIVISION DEAN'S SIGNATURE <i>Eddie Carter</i>	DATE: 05/27/2026	