

CIS Programming & Networking/Cybersecurity
Business and Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

CHAIRPERSON:		
MEETING DATE: September 18, 2026	MEETING TIME: 3:00 pm	MEETING LOCATION: Innovation Outpost
RECORDER: Traci Nowell		PREVIOUS MEETING: First Meeting of cycle

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
P	Zack Newbill, Staff Solution Engineer	AQHA	znewbill41@gmail.com	806-420-1217
P	Michael Keough- Chief Technology Officer	Region 16	michael.keough@esc16.net	806-290-2061
P	Matt Thomas-Director of Information Security	Golden Spread Electric Coop	m0393255@actx.edu	979-571-3791
	Others Present-Ex-Officio			
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

Advisory Board / Business and
Leadership Council

CIS Programming & Networking/Cybersecurity
BLC-Orientation Meeting 1st meeting in cycle

September 18, 2026

P	Dr. Carol Buse	AC- CIS Instructor	acbuse@actx.edu	806-371-5619
P	AJ Cunha	AC- CIS Instructor	acunha@actx.edu	806-371-5495
P	Traci Nowell	AC- CIS Administrative Assistant	Traci.nowell@actx.edu	806-371-5934
P	Taya Mamba	Perkins Grant Director	tlmamba@actx.edu	806-371-5073

Minutes	
Key Discussion Points	Discussion
Old Business:	
Continuing Business:	
New Business:	
Curriculum Decisions:	
Other:	Executive summary. The meeting reviewed major curriculum redesigns in both programming and networking/cybersecurity, explained the BLC and KSA review cycle, and gathered industry feedback about AI, cloud infrastructure, workforce preparation, and academic integrity. The strongest consensus was to retain technical fundamentals while integrating AI throughout the curriculum. Students should learn to use AI productively, but they must also be able to verify its output, protect data, evaluate security and cost, explain their decisions, and function when automated tools fail. Most important takeaways AI should be integrated across programming, networking, cybersecurity, cloud, and systems courses rather than confined to one special-topics class.

- Foundational knowledge remains essential. Industry members emphasized that students must understand how systems and code work so they can recognize incorrect, insecure, or costly AI-generated results.
- Networking and infrastructure instruction should continue covering servers, but it should increasingly reflect cloud and hybrid environments, infrastructure as code, automation, and cloud cost optimization.
- Dual credit is a major workforce strategy. Moving foundational courses and certifications into high school can allow students to begin more advanced college work sooner.
- Assessment practices need to change. Live demonstrations, oral explanations, reflective questions, in-class work, and integrated capstone tasks provide better evidence of learning than finished products alone.
- AI governance, ethics, privacy, and responsible use should be treated as college-wide concerns rather than responsibilities belonging only to IT.

Curriculum updates

Programming

- The first year now provides a broader foundation across Microsoft Office, UNIX and Linux, databases, programming logic, web development, advanced Excel, hardware, and current topics in AI.
- Students later select one of three pathways: Software Development, Game Design, or IT Generalist.
- Common upper-level requirements include object-oriented programming, advanced web development, and Comprehensive Software Project Planning and Design.
- UNIX and Linux instruction is now required more broadly instead of being limited to selected pathways.
- Program options were streamlined to create more common coursework and delay specialization until students have a stronger foundation.
- The program continues to connect courses with certifications such as Microsoft Office Specialist, Linux Essentials, Azure fundamentals, and CompTIA credentials where appropriate.

Networking and cybersecurity

- The redesigned sequence progresses from foundations to networking, then security, followed by general education completion in the fourth semester.
- The first-semester Level 1 certificate is also the principal dual-credit pathway. Additional networking and security courses will be added as cohorts advance.

- Most courses are aligned to certifications. The meeting specifically referenced A+, Network+, Security+, Linux Essentials, Linux+, Azure AZ-900/SC-900, CCNA preparation, CySA+, PenTest+, and the EC Council incident-handling credential.
- Designing and Implementing a Server Infrastructure replaces a less-focused prior server course and is intended to align more closely with Server Plus.
- Incident Response and Handling replaces Digital Forensic Tools based on earlier BLC feedback.
- The intrusion-detection course serves as an internship or substantial cybersecurity-project experience.
- Cisco 2 and Introduction to Digital Forensics were identified as courses without a direct certification alignment at present.

BLC Members feedback

Topic	Industry perspective	Curricular implication
Cloud and infrastructure	Organizations are moving significant infrastructure to cloud or hybrid environments. AI can accelerate provisioning, but poor architecture and egress or operating costs remain serious risks.	Teach cloud foundations, infrastructure as code, automation, hybrid design, and cost optimization alongside server fundamentals.
Programming	AI can generate syntax and complete applications, but it may omit security, privacy, architecture, and operational requirements when the user lacks domain knowledge.	Emphasize logic, secure design, architecture, testing, review, and the ability to explain and correct generated code.
Workforce roles	Some entry-level tasks and roles may shrink while capable workers become more productive. Organizations will increasingly need people who can manage agents and evaluate results.	Prepare students to combine AI fluency with judgment, communication, problem solving, and technical foundations.
Credentials	A four-year degree may not be necessary for every role. Employers	Use a combination of certificates, industry certifications, portfolios,

	value evidence that candidates can apply foundational knowledge.	internships, demonstrations, and hands-on projects.
Governance and ethics	The largest risks are not only technical. Privacy, misuse, excessive trust, and weak governance can create institutional and social harm.	Embed ethics, governance, privacy, validation, and responsible-use expectations across programs and general education.
Academic integrity	Finished work alone may no longer show what a student knows. AI detection is unlikely to solve the problem reliably.	Use demonstrations, oral questioning, individualized reflection, in-class tasks, and scaffolded or capstone assessments.

Introduce BLC process and member role

- The Programming and Networking/Cybersecurity councils normally meet separately after the joint orientation.
- The BLC model is intended to create ongoing industry-led dialogue rather than a traditional advisory meeting focused on institutional presentations.
- New or substantially revised courses will go through the KSA process: identify knowledge, skills, and abilities; obtain industry rankings; crosswalk the KSAs to courses; review gaps; and repeat the cycle.
- Members were encouraged to recruit additional representatives, host internships, participate in mock interviews and employability activities, and serve as guest speakers.

Action items

Action	Lead or participants	Timing or status
Send the AI discussion questions to members who could not attend and invite additional feedback.	CIS leadership	After the meeting

Schedule KSA meetings for new and substantially revised courses, then distribute rankings or voting electronically.	CIS leadership, faculty, and BLC members	During the 2026–2027 BLC cycle
Review whether the server course should place greater emphasis on cloud platforms, hybrid infrastructure, infrastructure as code, automation, and cloud cost management.	Networking and cybersecurity faculty with industry members	Curriculum follow-up
Continue integrating AI use, validation, security, ethics, and governance across courses.	CIS faculty	Ongoing
Investigate possible partnerships or funding with Google.org and similar organizations for AI and cybersecurity education.	College and grant partners	Exploratory
Recruit additional BLC members, internship hosts, mock-interview participants, and guest speakers.	Current BLC members and CIS	Ongoing
Share and support the October 2 cybersecurity event, which brings together high school students, college students, and professionals in a low-risk applied environment.	AJ Cunha, CIS, and BLC partners	Before October 2, 2026

Questions for continued discussion

- Which AI and cloud capabilities should every graduate demonstrate, regardless of pathway?
- Which current course outcomes should be revised because AI now performs the task, and which fundamentals must remain because they support validation and troubleshooting?
- What evidence should employers use to evaluate entry-level AI and cybersecurity readiness?

	• How should the college assess learning when students are permitted or expected to use AI? • What safeguards are needed for local AI models, agentic tools, privacy, academic integrity, and attacks that may be difficult to attribute? Meeting close The meeting closed with a reminder that the BLC process continues throughout the year. Much of the KSA development and ranking work may be completed through online meetings and electronic review to respect members' time. No formal motions or recorded votes were evident in the meeting recording.
Adjourn:	4:13 pm

Committee Chairperson:	MEETING DATE: September 18, 2026	NEXT MEETING: TBD KSA
Recorder's Signature: <i>Traci Nowell</i>	09/22/2026	
DEPARTMENTAL CHAIRPERSON SIGNATURE: <i>Karen Boatman</i>	DATE: 09/22/2026	
DIVISION DEAN'S SIGNATURE <i>Edie Carter</i>	DATE: 09/22/2026	