



**National Centers of Academic Excellence in  
Cyber Defense**  
9800 Savage Road  
Ft. Meade, MD 20755-6804

08 Dec 2023

Metropolitan Community College  
Mr. Gary Sparks  
PO Box 3777  
Omaha, Nebraska, 68103

Mr. Gary Sparks:

I am pleased to inform you that Metropolitan Community College has been designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) for the validated program(s) of study through academic year 2028.

Your ability to meet the increasing demands of the program criteria will serve the nation well in contributing to the protection of the National Information Infrastructure. The National Cyber Strategy, September 2018, addresses the critical shortage of professionals with cybersecurity skills and highlights the importance of higher education as a solution to defending America's cyberspace. "A highly skilled cybersecurity workforce is a strategic national security advantage." "The United States Government will continue to invest in and enhance programs that build the domestic talent pipeline, from primary through postsecondary education." Education is the key to promoting these ideals.

Certificates will be presented at a date to be determined. This letter is confirmation of your designation. We appreciate your participation in this program and look forward to seeing you in the future.

Sincerely,

\s\

Rena Weathers  
National CAE Program Manager, NSA