

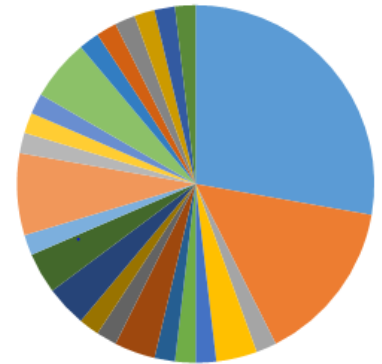
2017 GenCyber Boot Camp Summary Report

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP June 12-16 | HIGH SCHOOL CAMP June 19-23

The Center for Information Assurance (CfIA) successfully hosted its annual GenCyber Boot Camps for two consecutive weeks during the month of June. More than 80 Middle and High school students, from different places, came to the University of Memphis to learn more about cyber safety and best practices. The chart below shows that campers came from 24 different schools (indicated by different colors) across the mid-south region (with a few coming from other parts of the country). The highest number of middle school applicants came from White Station, and the second highest number came from Schilling Farms.

Each camp officially started with a welcome from the Dean of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Thomas J. Nenon. The week-long camp was divided into multiple sessions that allowed students to be engaged in activities that included digital fingerprinting, online safety, privacy and more! The main theme of the camp, however, centered on the Cyber Security First Principles. These

principles were illustrated with real-world examples by security experts. This rigorous training also had week-long group projects where the students were tasked with developing cyber security related



Relative Distribution of Participant Schools



stories/games. Each group presented their projects to a panel of industry professionals on the last day of the camp. The campers also toured different campus facilities including Data Center, University Library and FedEx Institute of Technology while they attended the camp. The security professionals who shared their experiences with

the campers included Ms. Karen Bell (U of M Systems Analyst), Dr. Dipankar Dasgupta (CfIA Director and GenCyber Program Director), Mr. Tim Marsh (FBI Agent), Dr. Lan Wang (Computer Science Department Chair), Mr. Meka Egwuekwe (CodeCrew Director), and Mr. James Cotter (Department of TN Homeland Security). The Director of ESU Scholars, Dr. Jada Meeks, also spoke to the High School campers on the importance of early preparation for college. The University of Memphis provost, Dr. Karen Weddle-West, addressed the audience at the closing ceremony on June 23rd. She also participated in panel discussion and highlighted the important role that the University is playing in the region.

The two weeks of GenCyber were filled with education and fun. When asked about their experience, one of the campers, Walter Valentine, had this to say "I actually enjoyed the camp, it was very interesting." Another student, Maddie Dowd, had this to say "I thoroughly enjoyed my experience with the instructors and other students; I found everyone very welcoming. I have already used my new found knowledge at a volunteer youth science camp at which I am teaching this summer." Her mother, Dawn Decker, shared similar sentiments "The Gen Cyber camp is a treasure for students. A wonderful experience in a critical field for all of our futures."



More information about the camps is available at <http://www.memphis.edu/cfia/projects/gencyber.php>. The middle school camp was featured on **Action News 5**, and the high school camp was featured on **Chalkbeat**.

