InfraGard Springfield Receives Challenge Award

The Collegiate Cyber Exercise Event (CCEE), held in September 2010 has been awarded the 2011 Meeting the Challenge Award presented by InfraGard, a national, collaborative program between the FBI and private sector Subject Matter Experts.

The InfraGard Meeting the Challenge Award is given to one or more persons who have met or overcome a specific challenge in the pursuit of meeting the goals and objectives of InfraGard. The Springfield CCEE was nominated for its September 2010 event. The event, conceived by Janis Rose, faculty member at the University of Illinois and President of InfraGard Springfield, was an opportunity for full-time students attending Illinois colleges and universities to expand their computer security education through simulations of cyber-attacks against critical infrastructure and key resources. It focused on a hands-on, full day exercise that engaged the next generation of cyber security professionals in Cyber Storm scenarios. The CCEE was made possible through key partnerships with the Computer Science Department of the University of Illinois Springfield and the National Resource Center for Systems Security and Information Assurance (CSSIA). The national resource center is funded by a National Science Foundation (NSF) Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Program grant.

After some unforeseen circumstances left them without key materials a week prior to the event, the committee planning it, led by Rose, pulled together to develop all the necessary virtualization and scenario materials. Finishing on the eve of the event, their program was a great success without the attendees realizing the tremendous effort put together at the last minute. It reminded those involved of the power of teamwork and to not give up in the face of defeat.

Congratulations to the Collegiate Cyber Exercise Event for its tremendous event and for receiving the 2011 InfraGard Meeting the Challenge Award.