



**National Centers of Academic Excellence in  
Cyber Defense Program of Study Validation**

9800 Savage Road  
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21 Nov 2022

Palo Alto College  
Mr. Brian McDaniel  
1400 W. Villaret Blvd.  
San Antonio, Texas, 78224

Mr. Brian McDaniel:

I am pleased to inform you that the National Security Agency and a committee of academic peers has validated the following program of study: Cyber Defense and Operations, A.A.S., through academic year 2027. This letter will serve as proof of your Program of Study Validation.

Your ability to meet the increasing demands of the program validation 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.

Sincerely,

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Karen Leuschner  
National CAE Program Manager, NSA