



What is the Cybersecurity Institute and Technology Incubator (CITI)?

The Cybersecurity Institute and Technology Incubator (CITI) will use FHSU's strengths to advance the Kansas economy through asset preservation and venture creation. Its objectives are to leverage student and faculty expertise and create cybersecurity ventures.

Institute Operations and Objectives

The microinternships are designed to be small and project-based, typically completed in 1-2 weeks. From a business standpoint, the goal behind these microinternships is to educate small to medium-business owners about the importance of cybersecurity and how it may affect their business, no matter what that business may be. These owners may need to know how to get started and may not have funding. These microinternships will initially be made available at no cost to the business. From a student perspective, this is a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have learned in the classroom and apply them to help enhance their communities and professional careers. Students will receive a cash stipend and potentially internship credit hours at FHSU.

- Developed microinternship subject areas, project scope detail, and mapped those to curriculum to help identify students appropriate for the microinternship placement
- Recruited 15 students (spring 2023), for the first cohort of microinternships

Services to businesses, and experiences for the student talent pipeline, include microinternships in areas such as the following:

- Website Security Evaluation
- Security Vulnerability Report
- Deploying Data Privacy and Security Controls
- Designing Security Training
- Application Security Evaluation
- Software Testing

- Data Clean-Up
- Development of Documentation or Compliance Protocols

Incubator Operations and Objectives

- Create a "Tech Stars" development experience for incubator recruits. The goal is to initially develop one to two businesses, with the possibility of those being venture referrals to the SBDC. Incubators provide environments that allow a region to take an active role in growing their businesses, leading to job creation.
- With Amazon Web Services, virtualization, cloud computing, security, information assurance, and networking curricula, CITI will be positioned to be supported by an array of technologically skilled faculty, developing students, and networks of business mentors who can collaborate with communities in a supportive, strategically developmental environment, identifying and working with local community partners, including infrastructure companies.
- Conducting surveys to assess and develop the framework for this initiative, much like the process currently undertaken by the Department of Commerce in the "Framework for Growth" project, is critical.

Incubator recruitment

CITI will accelerate the success of entrepreneurial companies through business support resources and services, i.e., management guidance, technical support, and tailored consultation. Graduates of the incubator will contribute to the "overall vitality, diversity, and growth of the area economy" and create wealth through multiplier effects.

Progress Highlights

- Identified a suitable space to locate CITI (Hammond Hall, Second Floor)

- Working on design and construction should begin shortly
- Developed microinternship subject areas, project scope detail, and mapped those to curriculum to help identify students appropriate for the micro internship placement
- Developed and refined staffing roles and structure of CITI operations
- Developed and launched search for director
- Interim Director and Student Coordinator have begun outreach presentations to build awareness of CITI and begin recruitment of businesses for which microinternships will be impactful
- Recruited students for the first cohort of micro internships- 15 for Spring 2023
- Marketing materials and website in progress
- Developing partnerships with Grow Hays, Enterprise KC, Stem Harvest, as well as SBDC to further develop our business recruitment reach

For more information or small business referrals, contact:

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