



News Release

Pat Quinn, Governor

Jay Rowell, Director

For Immediate Release
December 17, 2013

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www.illinoisjoblink.com

Illinois Leads Nation in Cyber Aces Competitors Veterans, Students Ideal for Recession-Proof Jobs

CHICAGO – Illinois leads the nation in the number of competitors in the Cyber Aces State Championship series designed to identify the next generation of cybersecurity talent, the Illinois Department of Employment Security said today. The challenge is part of Governor Pat Quinn's agenda to grow the Illinois economy, increase public safety and help Veterans, students and career changers enter the growing cyber workforce and obtain meaningful employment.

More than 3,160 individuals from 513 Illinois communities, including high school students, adults, Veterans and career-changers, registered to compete in this multiple round virtual tournament to identify those with the skills needed to protect and probe data in the public and private sector. The final of three qualifying modules is this week, Dec. 18 and 19, and the state championship is scheduled for March 1.

“Cybersecurity threats are real. Each day there are stories emphasizing the critical role cybersecurity professionals play in the public and private sector,” IDES Director Jay Rowell said. “This competition helps identify those individuals with the discipline and skills needed to protect our infrastructure, economy and security.”

Illinois' results illustrate the goal to identify individuals with the ability to build upon their knowledge, intuition and problem-solving skills that are critical to cybersecurity efforts. Illinois' top five competitors thus far include two adults, two college students and one high school student. Nationally, Illinois has four individuals in the Top 50 – including the high school student.

Illinois was one of the leading states in the Cyber Aces challenge as federal officials quickly expand cybersecurity forces to counter evolving threats. Illinois' recruitment success is rooted in IDES' ability to send specific emails to individuals registered with illinoisjoblink.com, the state's help-wanted job board that IDES operates. Individuals can choose to receive information from IDES regardless of their employment status. IDES' email open rate is nearly 1 million per message.

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The free, virtual competition focuses on three critical modules: computer networking, operating systems and system administration. Contestants who registered at www.cyberaces.org were invited to complete a tutorial, practice sessions and participate in ever-more-challenging competitions. The year-long effort launched in the Spring and included a special summer course for Veterans. Modules in October, November and December culminate in the Cyber Aces State Championship at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills on March 1, 2014.

The Defense Department's Cyber Command plans to increase its workforce to 4,000, up from 900. Private sector opportunities in cybersecurity also are expanding rapidly. Currently, cybersecurity careers are the second-fastest growing positions in information technology (IT). Cybersecurity positions also are among the most secure and the highest salaried in the IT field.

About Cyber Aces

The Cyber Aces Foundation is a not-for-profit organization working to discover talent and provide a pathway to employment in critical cybersecurity jobs. The foundation challenges students, Veterans and jobseekers with training and competition, develops their abilities with cybersecurity education and prepares them for cybersecurity careers. It is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, visit cyberaces.org.

About Illinoisjoblink.com

More than 120,000 help-wanted ads are on Illinoisjoblink.com, the IDES employment website that links jobseekers with employers. Keyword matching technology increases the likelihood of a successful new hire and compares favorably to private efforts that cost hundreds of dollars for a single advertisement. No-cost HR recruitment services are available at the website and at (877) 342-7533.

Illinois competitors are from:

Abingdon	4	Antioch	6
Addison	5	Argenta	1
Albers	1	Arlington Heights	16
Albion	1	Aroma park	1
Aledo	1	Ashley	1
Algonquin	9	Assumption	1
Alhambra	1	Atkinson	1
Alpha	1	Atlanta	1
Alsip	4	Atwood	1
Altamont	1	Augusta	2
Alton	5	Aurora	48
Amboy	2	Baldwin	1
Anna	2	Banglore	1





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Barrington	10	Brookport	1
Barry	1	Brownstown	1
Bartlett	12	Buckner	1
Bartonville	2	Buffalo Grove	7
Batavia	5	Bulpitt	1
Batchtown	1	Bunker Hill	1
Beach Park	3	Burbank	3
Beardstown	2	Burnham	1
Beecher	1	Byron	1
beleville	1	Cahokia	3
Belle Rive	2	Calumet city	14
Belleville	14	Calumet park	2
Bellwood	12	Camp Point	1
Belvidere	6	Canton	2
Benld	1	Carbondale	21
Bensenville	3	Carlock	1
Benton	3	Carlyle	1
Berwyn	8	Carmi	1
Bethalto	4	Carol Stream	14
Bingham	2	Carpentersville	7
Bloomington	27	Carterville	2
Blue island	3	Carthage	1
Blue Mound	1	Cary	4
Bolinbrook	34	Caseyville	2
Bonfield	1	Catlin	1
Boody	1	Cave In Rock	1
Bourbonnais	3	Centerville	1
Bowen	1	Centralia	7
Braceville	3	Chadwick	1
Bradley	3	Champaign	14
Bridgeview	3	Charleston	3
Brighton	1	Chatham	4
Brimfield	2	Chatsworth	1
Broadview	1	Chebanse	1
Brookfield	8	Chester	1





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Chicago	798	Dixon	14
Chicago Heights	3	Downers Grove	13
Chillicothe	2	Dunlap	3
Chrisman	1	DuQuoin	2
Christopher	1	Durand	1
Cicero	12	Dwight	1
Cisne	1	Earlville	1
Clarendon Hills	6	East Hazel Crest	1
Clinton	1	East Moline	5
Coal City	1	East Peoria	6
Coal Valley	1	East Saint Louis	7
Cobden	3	Edwards	2
Colfax	2	Edwardsville	4
Collinsville	6	Effingham	6
Columbia	3	Eldorado	4
Cortland	1	Elgin	26
Country Club Hill	13	Elk Grove Village	10
Creal Springs	1	Elmhurst	6
crescent city	1	Elmwood	1
Crest Hill	4	Elmwood park	6
Crestwood	1	Elsah	1
Crete	2	Energy	2
Crystal Lake	10	Equality	1
Danville	10	Erie	2
Darien	2	eureka	1
Davis	1	Evanston	18
Dawson	1	Evergreen Park	5
Deatur	37	Fairbury	1
Deerfield	4	Fairfield	2
Dekalb	31	Fairview heights	5
Delavan	2	Flora	1
Des Plaines	13	Flossmoor	6
DeSoto	1	Forest park	5
Diamond	1	Fox Lake	4
		Frankfort	9





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Franklin Park	4	Hainesville	1
Freeport	8	Hampshire	2
Gages Lake	1	Hanover Park	11
Galesburg	13	Harrisburg	3
Galva	1	Hartford	1
Garden prairie	1	Harvard	4
Gardner	1	Harvey	6
Geff	1	Harwood heights	2
Geneva	2	Havana	3
Genoa	1	Hawthorn Woods	1
Georgetown	1	Hazel Crest	8
Germantown Hills	1	Hebron	3
Gibson City	1	Herod	2
Gilberts	1	Herrin	8
Gilson	1	Herscher	2
Glasford	1	Heyworth	2
Glen Carbon	6	Hickory Hills	3
Glen Ellyn	9	Highland	2
Glendale Heights	9	Highland park	4
Glenview	6	Hillsboro	1
Glenwood	5	Hillside	1
Godfrey	6	Hinckley	1
Godley	1	Hinsdale	4
Golconda	1	Hoffman Estates	18
Goodfield	2	Homer Glen	4
Grafton	1	Hometown	1
Granite City	6	Homewood	11
Grant Park	1	Hoopeston	1
Grayslake	7	Hudson	1
Grayville	1	Hull	1
Greenfield	1	Huntley	1
Greenup	1	Ingleside	2
Greenville	4	Inverness	2
Gridley	1	Irving	1
Gurnee	12	Island Lake	2





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Jacksonville	7
Jerseyville	1
Johnsburg	2
Johnston City	2
Joliet	42
Justice	2
Kankakee	10
Kell	1
Kenney	1
kewanee	4
kingston	2
La Grange	6
La Grange Park	3
La Salle	2
Lake Barrington	1
Lake Bluff	1
Lake Forest	2
Lake In The Hills	8
Lake Villa	7
Lake Zurich	6
Lakemoor	3
Lansing	8
LaSalle	3
Lawrenceville	1
Lebanon	5
Lemont	3
Lena	1
Lewistown	2
Libertyville	3
Lincoln	1
Lincolnwood	3
Lindenhurst	6
Lindenwood	1
Lisle	9
Litchfield	3

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Little York	1
Lock	13
Lombard	11
Lossmoor	1
Louisville	1
Loves Park	3
Lovington	1
Lynwood	5
Lyons	2
Machesney park	6
Macomb	5
Mahomet	2
Manhattan	1
Manito	2
Manteno	5
Mapleton	1
Marengo	2
Marion	3
Markham	6
Marquette Heights	1
Marseilles	1
Martinton	1
Maryville	3
Mascoutah	1
Mason City	1
Matteson	16
Maywood	1
McHenry	13
Mechanicsburg	1
Medinah	1
Melrose Park	6
Mendon	1
Mendota	3
Merrionette Park	1
Midlothian	8





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Milan	1
Millstadt	1
Minooka	3
Mokena	12
Moline	11
Momence	3
Monee	6
Monmouth	3
Montgomery	13
Monticello	1
Moro	1
Morris	4
Morrison	1
Morton	2
Morton Grove	2
Mount Auburn	1
Mount Carmel	1
Mount Carroll	1
Mount Olive	1
Mount Prospect	11
Mount Vernon	3
Moweaqua	1
Mt Prospect	4
Mundelein	5
Murphysboro	5
N. Aurora	1
Naperville	38
Nashville	1
Neoga	1
New Berlin	1
New Lenox	8
Newark	2
Niles	14
Normal	13
North Aurora	11

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North Barrington	1
North Chicago	2
Northbrook	7
Northfield	2
Northlake	3
Oak Brook	1
Oak Forest	11
Oak Lawan	23
Oak Park	24
Oakwood Hills	1
O'Fallon	6
Oglesby	1
Okawville	1
Olney	1
Olympia Fields	4
Oregon	3
Orland hills	1
Orland Park	15
Oswego	11
Ottawa	5
Palatine	19
Palos Hills	6
Palos Park	2
Pana	1
Paris	4
Park Forest	14
Park Ridge	9
Pawnee	2
Pecatonica	1
Pekin	8
Peoria	31
Peoria Heights	4
Peotone	2
Peru	2





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Pesotum	1
Phoenix	1
Plainfield	46
Plano	2
Pontiac	2
Pontoon Beach	1
Poplar Grove	1
Princeton	1
Princeville	1
Prophetstown	1
prospect heights	2
Quincy	11
Ransom	1
Rantoul	4
Red Bud	1
Reddick	
Richmond	1
Richton Park	5
Ringwood	1
River Forest	3
River Grove	1
Riverdale	8
Riverton	1
Riverwoods	1
Robinson	2
Rochelle	3
Rock Falls	5
Rock Island	10
Rockdale	1
Rockford	32
Rockton	3
Rolling Meadows	7
Romeoville	16
Roscoe	2

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Roselle	7
rossville	1
Round Lake	6
Round Lake Beach	7
Round Lake Heights	2
round lake park	1
Royalton	1
South Holland	1
Saint Charles	11
Sandwich	3
Sauk village	6
Savoy	1
Schamburg	34
Schiller Park	3
Scott AFB	1
Sesser	1
Sheffield	1
Sheridan	1
Sherrard	1
Shipman	1
Shorewood	2
Silvis	1
Skokie	9
Sleepy Hollow	2
Smithton	1
Somonauk	2
Sorento	1
South Barrington	1
South Beloit	4
South Chicago Heights	1
South Elgin	2
South Holland	11
South Roxana	2
Spring Grove	3





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Spring Valley	2
Springfield	52
St. Anne	1
Steger	4
Sterling	5
Stickney	3
Streamwood	14
Streator	10
Stronghurst	1
Sugar grove	2
Sullivan	1
Summit	4
Swansea	2
Sycamore	9
Tamaroa	1
Taylorville	2
Teutopolis	1
Thomasboro	1
Tilden	1
Tinley Park	21
Tolono	1
Troy	6
Tuscola	1
University Park	5
Urbana	9
Vandalia	3
Varna	1
Vernon Hills	6
Vienna	1
Villa Grove	1
Villa Park	2
Village of Lakewood	2
Virden	2

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Virginia	1
Volo	1
Wadsworth	2
Warren	1
Warrenville	5
Warsaw	1
Washburn	1
Washington	5
Waukegan	15
West Chicago	7
West Dundee	2
West Frankfort	2
Westchester	4
Westmont	4
Wheaton	18
Wheeling	11
Whittington	1
Willowbrook	2
Wilmette	3
Wilmington	4
Winfield	3
Winthrop Harbor	3
Witt	2
Wood Dale	2
Wood river	3
Woodridge	5
Woodstock	9
Woosung	2
Worth	3
Wyanet	1
Yorkville	7
Zeigler	1
Zion	6
END	

