

# Our Commitment to Disability Inclusion & Economic Empowerment of Underserved Communities

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# About Us

- **Committed** to talent development for people with disabilities and underserved communities.
- Driving their **economic empowerment** by demystifying access to careers in the cybersecurity space.
- A community **ethos of inclusion** for employees and family members with physical, mental, and/ or cognitive differences.

## Our ADAPT Vision

For PANW employees to thrive without labels and stigma by removing barriers: physical, cultural, and systemic, through educational outreach and resources.



## Building the next generation - Cybersecurity Academy

We are committed to helping students build careers in cybersecurity and helping the industry close the cybersecurity skills gap.

- Partner with academic institutions
- Offer FREE education programs
- High school, college, and university inclusion

[Download our curriculum](#)

## Leading for those who are blind and visually impaired

In 2023, with Cyber.org and the Virginia Department of the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI), we developed and invested the first ever, hands-on cybersecurity labs for individuals who are blind and vision impaired.



# Three programs we are proud to be a part of

## Committed to equitable cybersecurity education for all learners!

- **Learning areas:** hardware and software firewall devices, cyber-defense configuration methodologies, traffic filtering policies, automation practices, and administrative command line procedures.
- The NICE Framework helps to develop accessible curriculums including Knowledge, Skill, and Task mapping that introduce students to potential cybersecurity work roles.

Learn more: [The NICE K12](#)



Residents of the state have access to specialized services and programs helping build the skills, confidence and positive outlook that are critical to independence.

The Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) provides services and resources which empower individuals who are blind, vision impaired or deafblind to achieve their desired levels of employment, education, and personal independence.

Learn more: [DBVI brochure](#)



Palo Alto Networks is a Gold Sponsor of Cyber.org. Committed to educators teaching cybersecurity, and the student minds they are cultivating.

- Expands access to cybersecurity professional development and classroom resources for K-12.
- Provide Cyber Education Resources; Build Education Pipeline; Solve Cyber Workforce Shortage; and create Inclusive Cyber Education Opportunities for Students with Disabilities.
- **PANW's programs include:**
  - For students: Cybersecurity Academy and Cyber A.C.E.S. (Activities in Cybersecurity Education for Students).
  - *For educators:* free resources to K-12 educators looking for support in implementing cybersecurity.

Cybersecurity Academy [free resources](#)





# Project Access

*This is a CISA-funded program that empowers blind and visually impaired students to learn cybersecurity and explore potential careers in the industry.*

## What our participants are saying...

“I’ve enjoyed assisting our students at the Robotics and Linux camps. Meeting them again in the community and learning that they are in college in various STEM fields is even better. The camps have helped open up the tech world to them.”

**Shawn Corcoran**

*Virginia Department for the Blind and Visually impaired (DBVI)*

“Learning the ins and outs of how to create a website for the first time was rewarding. Thank you BDVI for all the wonderful opportunities!”

**Alexis Williamson**

*Leap into Linux student, now Student Classroom Assistant and Mentor*



## Preparing an Underserved Population for Cybersecurity Workforce Careers

Participants learned that underserved students at Virginia’s Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VDBVI) had access to customized education about:

- ✓ Web development
- ✓ Operating systems exploration
- ✓ Penetration testing
- ✓ Password cracking
- ✓ Programming, soft-skill development
- ✓ Team-building activities, and
- ✓ Resume writing for career preparedness.



# Increasing Cybersecurity Career Awareness

In 2023, *Palo Alto Networks* contributed equitable cybersecurity education for all learners by developing accessible tools, hands-on labs, and content to prepare future cybersecurity practitioners including hardware and software firewall devices, cyber-defense configuration methodologies, traffic filtering policies, automation practices, and administrative command line procedures.

- The NICE Framework was used to develop the accessible curriculum including Knowledge, Skill, and Task mapping that introduce students to potential career strategies mapped to relevant and achievable cybersecurity work roles.
- *Palo Alto Networks* Cybersecurity Academy together with Cyber.org and Virginia DBVI run a panel discussion at the NICE K12 conference focusing on increasing Cybersecurity Career Awareness.
- Attendees also hear directly from two of the incredible and capable students who have engaged in this project.

