



TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

October 3, 2022

National Security Agency
Attn: CAE Program Manager
9800 Savage Road
Ft. Meade, MD 20755-6804

Subject: The Tuskegee University Letter of Endorsement and Intent to apply for National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) Re-Designation

Dear CAE Program Manager:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Tuskegee University (TU) intends to submit an application for a re-designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD). The Center of Information Assurance Education (CIAE) at TU is housed within the Computer Science Department of the College of Business and Information Science. The CIAE at TU was re-designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education (CAE-IAE) by NSA/DHS in 2017.

Tuskegee University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). More information and verification of this accreditation can be found at <https://www.tuskegee.edu/about-us> or <https://www.tuskegee.edu/institutional-effectiveness/institutional-accreditation>. Additionally, the B.S. in Computer Science (CS) is accredited by The Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, the national accrediting agency for computer science programs. Verification of the TU Computer Science Departmental accreditation can be obtained from the Dean of the College of Business and Information Science at (334)727-8116 or by contacting the ABET organization at (410)347-7700. Computer Science Department, where initially the center started, offers B.S. in Computer Science (CS), B.S. in Information Systems (IS), and B.S. in Information Technology (IT). In addition to these undergraduate programs, the department also offers an inter-disciplinary master program in Information Systems and Computer Security (MS-ISCS) with two options – Cybersecurity and Data Science. The MS-ISCS Cybersecurity option is the program of study supporting the requested re-designation.

Tuskegee University is committed to the long-term success of its information assurance and cyber defense education, research, training, and outreach because of the crucial nature of cyber security for the nation and in training professionals to meet this challenge. Dr. Fan Wu, Department Head

and Professor of Computer Science in the College of Business and Information Science, and the Director of Center of Information Assurance Education will be the CAE POC and will be coordinating the CAE-CD application process with the support from other faculty, administration, and university campus technology. Dr. Cassandra Thomas, Associate Professor of Computer Science and the Assistant Director of the Center of Information Assurance is the CAE Institutional Accounts Administrator.

The CIAE at TU has carried out information assurance and cyber defense education, research, training, and outreach since its initial designation as CAE-IAE. The master program in Information Systems and Computer Security (MS-ISCS)-Cybersecurity option offered by the TU Computer Science Department, is the program of study supporting the CAE-CD re-designation and is designed to fill the current and future national needs for Information Assurance and Cyber Defense professionals to support the nation's information infrastructure. With the efforts of the CIAE, the university has been awarded a CyberCorps: Scholarship for Service (SFS) grant by NSF to strengthen the national cyber security workforce.

The CIAE activities at TU, such as teaching, research, training, and outreach, are carried out by a team of six faculty members that include Dr. Fan Wu, Dr. Dr. Jay Bhuyan, Dr. Yasmeen Rawajfih, Dr. X. Chang, Dr. M. Rahman, and Dr. Cassandra Thomas, carry the main burden. Our goal is to continue to expand it to the faculty from other colleges, and in the future, faculty and researchers from industry and other academic institutions of this country as well as other nations will contribute. The TU Computer Science Department has sufficient faculty and resources to run the activities of the center. We are also collaborating in CAE-CD and CAE-R activities with several other universities. These include the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, North Carolina A&T State University, Mississippi State University, and University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Further information about the Center of Information Assurance Education (CIAE) at Tuskegee University can be found at <https://www.tuskegee.edu/programs-courses/colleges-schools/cbis/computer-science/cs-ciae>

We at TU are excited about the prospect of continuing a part of this National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense program, and the contributions we can make through it. As the Provost and Chief Academic Officer, I fully support this effort and will be glad to furnish any other information needed in this direction.

Sincerely,



S. Keith Hargrove, PhD, MBA
Provost & Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs