



370 South Lowe Avenue
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Letter from the Chair:

WiCyS was not built by chance. It was built by purpose—by people who saw a critical gap in the cybersecurity workforce and chose to solve it through talent, skill, mentorship, opportunity, and community. That purpose began with the vision of Dr. Ambareen Siraj, whose leadership did more than launch an organization; it created an international movement that changed who sees themselves in cybersecurity, who has access to opportunity, and how the field thinks about building the workforce it needs. Her work gave WiCyS its foundation, its urgency, and its belief that community can be a force multiplier for cybersecurity.

That's the responsibility I step into as Chair of the Board of Directors, I accept this role with gratitude for the Board's trust, respect for the work already underway, and a clear commitment to serve the members, staff, volunteers, sponsors, partners, and allies who have made WiCyS a trusted force in cybersecurity. Our mission remains clear: to recruit, retain, and advance women in cybersecurity as part of a broader, skills-based workforce solution that supports industry, government, academia, and a global cyber community.

WiCyS has been part of my journey since the inaugural conference in 2014. Since then, my WiCyS service has grown from Industry Liaison to serving on the Advisory Board (2015-2018) to my current role on the Board of Governors (2018-present). In 2024, I received the WiCyS Advocacy Award—an honor I see not as a personal milestone, but as a reflection of the strength, persistence, and shared purpose of this community.

Cybersecurity is now central to national security, economic security, public safety, and global stability. Federal agencies, contractors, critical infrastructure providers, universities, startups, and global enterprises all face the same challenge: the demand for skilled cyber talent continues to grow faster than the available workforce. WiCyS helps answer that challenge! WiCyS is about capability, it's about readiness, it's about building a cybersecurity workforce strong enough to meet the demands of our time.



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Across Administrations, policy has made one thing clear: our nation needs stronger cyber readiness, secure software, resilient infrastructure, trusted supply chains, and a workforce capable of delivering them. WiCyS helps meet that need by developing, connecting, and advancing skilled cybersecurity talent through merit-based, mission-aligned pathways. We build pathways for students entering the field, professionals advancing their careers, veterans and military spouses bringing mission experience into cyber, researchers shaping what comes next, practitioners defending systems every day, and allies who know that expanding the cyber workforce is essential to strengthening it. We connect talent to opportunity. We create community where people stay, grow, lead, and contribute. And increasingly, we are able to show not only that WiCyS matters, but that WiCyS delivers measurable workforce value.

To our WiCyS Community: this organization exists because of you! Your expertise, mentorship, volunteering, sponsorship, chapter and affiliate work, conference sessions, technical leadership, and encouragement of one another are the heartbeat of WiCyS. You have built a trusted community that changes careers, strengthens organizations, and expands what is possible in cybersecurity.

To our Partners: WiCyS is ready to meet this moment with you! Investing in WiCyS is an investment in cyber workforce development, innovation, and mission success. Our commitment strengthens the field, strengthens the mission, and strengthens the global community we all depend on.

As Chair, I see our next chapter as a moment to expand our impact with clarity, purpose, and discipline. That means honoring the foundation that brought us here while strengthening the systems that will carry us forward. It means remaining centered on women in cybersecurity while welcoming allies and partners who believe in the mission. It means aligning our programs to the needs of members, employers, government, industry, academia, and the global cybersecurity community. And it means measuring our outcomes, so our value is clear, credible, and undeniable.

We will continue to lead with our mission. We will continue to invest in talent. We will continue to build bridges between community and opportunity. And we will continue to show that expanding the cyber workforce is not optional—it's essential!



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Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. I am humbled by it, energized by it, and committed to serving this organization with integrity, transparency, and focus.

The future of WiCyS is strong because this community is strong, I am excited for what we will build together.

Respectfully,

Dr. Dawn Beyer

Chair of the Board