



Dr. Andrew Yang
Computer Science and Computer Information Systems
University of Houston-Clear Lake
2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX, 77058

Dear Dr. Yang,

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) is a member-driven organization that provides leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment. We have over 270 member companies, including those from the aerospace, petrochemical, shipping, medical and computer sectors. Local corporations are all too aware of the dangers of cyber attacks and realize the importance of having a workforce well trained in cybersecurity. Therefore, we are pleased to partner with the University of Houston-Clear Lake for the establishment of a Cyber Intelligence Institute (CII) and the proposed projects to: 1) Develop new cybersecurity courses and cybersecurity modules for current computer science and computer engineering courses; 2) Establish a virtual laboratory for running network and cybersecurity projects, in order to support new coursework; and 3) Establish a certificate program in cybersecurity as well as a new undergraduate degree program in "Information and Network Security."

Specifically, we offer support by providing: 1) Guidance on content for the coursework you develop; 2) Connection with our 270 member companies to provide information on internship, co-op and employment opportunities in cybersecurity in our local area; 3) Facilitation with our member companies to provide group discussions, workshops, or seminars with the intent to connect the needs of industry with the development of cybersecurity coursework.

In July, Gen. Keith Alexander, the chief of the United States Cyber Command and the director of the National Security Agency, said intrusions against computers that run essential infrastructure increased 17-fold from 2009-11 and that it's only a matter of time before an attack causes physical damage. Over five million people live in the greater Houston region. This is expected to increase by two million by 2050. The Port of Houston alone contributes \$117 billion in annual economic activity. Galveston Bay is home to a vast petrochemical complex producing more than 26% of the nation's gasoline, 40% of its feed stocks, and 46% of its jet aviation fuel. Protecting our citizens is always the highest priority, but safeguarding our industrial sector from cybersecurity attack is a matter of national security.

BAHEP fully supports the establishment of a Cyber Intelligence Institute at the University of Houston-Clear Lake and will be available to offer assistance as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Mitchell".

Bob Mitchell
President
Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership