PC4A Partner Meeting
August 10, 2026 at 10:30 AM
Agenda

Previous Meeting Actions

1. Approval of minutes from the June 22, 2026 meeting.

Announcements/Updates

1. **Y4 Project Data**
   a. Templates will be provided to partners soon to collect Y4 project data. Please submit to the PM by no later than **September 17, 2026**.
2. **Annual Reports**
   a. Report templates will be shared with partners soon and will be due to the PM by **September 17, 2026**.
   b. There has been some confusion regarding partner's reported totals for certifications, scholarships, internship hours, etc. Before submitting reports, partners are asked to please **double check that reported numbers are quarterly totals only**, not cumulative.
3. **Spending Reminders for Year 4**
   a. Partners are reminded that all spending under the Y4 budget must occur by August 31, 2026.
   b. August 2026 Invoices are due to the PM as soon as possible, but no later than **September 17, 2026**.
4. **Subawards for Option Year 1**
   a. Almost all partner subaward documents for OY1 have been sent to the RI for final review and approval. Partners will be notified of updates as soon as possible.
5. **19th Annual Cybersecurity Day**
   a. The 19th Annual Cybersecurity Day will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2026. All partners are encouraged to attend either in person or virtually.
6. **Planning of Fall 2026 CTF**
   a. All partners will be asked to select a date for the upcoming PC4A CTF to be held sometime after the BSides Conference on November 12, 2026.
7. **Fall 2026 Meeting Schedule**
   a. Partners will be asked to share their availability for the Fall 2026 monthly partner meetings.

Minutes of the PC4A Partner Meeting
Held Virtually on August 10, 2026

Members Present: Ali Appleman, Jamie Bretz, Michael Caglia, Blaine Easterwood, Waleed Farag, Greg Bott, Sherri Mack, Greg Paonessa, Donna Reed, and Lydia Taylor.

Meeting Information

1. A motion was made to approve the June 22, 2026 meeting minutes as submitted and was seconded by Jamie Bretz. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Partners will receive a template for the Year 4 project data and annual report information, which is due to the PM by September 17, 2026. Submissions should include data for July and August only; partners should not aggregate the information with data submitted for prior reporting periods. Partners were asked to verify all scholarship, internship, certification, and other requested figures before submission.
3. Partners were reminded that all expenses charged to the Year 4 budget must be incurred by August 31, 2026. Scholarships, book vouchers, and other planned expenses should be processed once the fall semester begins, when possible, so they can be charged to the Year 4 rather than the Option Year 1 budget.
4. Three Option Year 1 subawards have been submitted to the IUP Research Institute for processing. The Research Institute is drafting the subawards and expects to contact partners soon.
5. Luzerne County Community College was asked to revise its scope of work, budget, and budget justification according to the feedback provided and return the documents as soon as possible for final review.
6. IUP's Annual Cybersecurity Day will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Partners and students are encouraged to attend in person, although the event will also be available via Zoom. Lydia Taylor will send partners a flyer and Zoom information to begin sharing with students at the start of the semester.
7. Partners were encouraged to promote and attend the BSides event scheduled for November 12, 2026, in Johnstown. PC4A plans to support the event and have a table with consortium information.
8. The Fall 2026 consortium-wide Capture the Flag competition is tentatively scheduled to begin Friday afternoon, November 13, and continue through Saturday, November 14, 2026. The competition will include monetary prizes and certification exam vouchers. Partners were asked to begin promoting the competition to students at the start of the semester.
9. The group agreed to continue holding partner meetings at 3:00 PM on the first or second Monday of each month during Fall 2026.
10. With no further business, the meeting concluded at 11:00AM.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Taylor and Dr. Waleed Farag.

PC4A Partner Meeting
June 22, 2026 at 3:30 PM
Agenda

Previous Meeting Actions

1. Approval of minutes from the May 18, 2026 meeting.

Announcements/Updates

1. **PC4A Option Year 1 Approval**
   a. PC4A was awarded funding for Option Year 1 (Year 5) which will allow the project to continue through August 31, 2027.
   b. Partners were sent templates for their Scope of Work, Budget, and Budget Justification. All documents are due to the PM by **July 15, 2026**.
   c. Partners are kindly reminded that our focus in OY1 should be tailored more to increasing student participation through **scholarships, certifications, and paid internships, as well as establishing transfer agreements with 4YIs**, as all these activities directly support reaching our three main project objectives. Other activities that support project objectives should continue to be conducted as a secondary focus
2. **Quarterly Reports**
   a. Report templates will be shared with partners soon and will be due to the PM by **July 19, 2026**.
3. **PC4A Transfer Scholarship**
   a. So far, only one student has applied for the PC4A Transfer Scholarship. All partners are asked to continue advertising the scholarship to students and encourage them to apply. Due to Option Year 1, funding may be available for scholarships to cover tuition and fees through AY 2026-27 and possibly Fall 2027.
4. **Year 4 Spending/Budget Modifications**
   a. Many partners are not spending funds in accordance with project timelines. All partners will be contacted soon for a report on budget projections and upcoming expenses.
   b. Partners who would like to request a budget modification should contact the PM ASAP and a template will be provided.
5. **Summer CTF Interest**
   a. Only 10 students responded to the CTF Interest Survey. Responses will be shared with partners and partners will be asked to comment on the possibility of offering another CTF late summer/early fall.
6. **4th PC4A Annual Conference Schedule**
   a. We plan to hold the 4th annual conference in early August 2026, as in previous years. Potential options include the morning of Monday, August 10, or a late-afternoon slot on any day during the week of August 3. We invite partners to share their input and preferences to help finalize the schedule.
7. **PC4A Partner Updates**

Minutes of the PC4A Partner Meeting
Held Virtually on June 22, 2026 at 3:30 PM

Members Present: Jamie Bretz, Michael Caglia, Waleed Farag, Kelli Gardner, Sherri Mack, Tim McCroskey, Greg Paonessa, Donna Reed, Lydia Taylor, Barb Zaborowski.

Meeting Information

1. Motion to approve the May 18, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Sherri Mack and seconded by Greg Paonessa. The motion passed unanimously.
2. PC4A has been awarded an Option Year 1 (OY1), extending the project through August 31, 2027. All partners have been sent templates for Y5 documents which are due to the PM by July 15, 2026. The focus of partner efforts in OY1 should be scholarships, certifications, paid internships, and transfer agreements with 4YIs.
3. Quarterly report templates will be sent to partners soon and are due to the PM by July 19, 2026.
4. The PC4A Transfer Scholarship so far has only one applicant. Partners were asked to continue sharing the opportunity with their students/alumni and encourage them to apply.
5. Partners were asked to review their current budgets/spending and request a budget modification if they need to reallocate funds for Y4. When submitting budget modifications, partners were reminded that the total amount budgeted under "Participant Support" cannot be reduced from the original approved amount.
6. The Summer CTF survey only has 10 responses. Because of OY1, partners agreed to push the CTF to be held after the BSides conference held on November 12, 2026 to increase participation.
7. The annual partner conference is scheduled for August 10, 2026 via zoom.
8. Partners provided the following updates:
    a. **PHCC:** Interns have been onboarded and they will begin working on forage.com. Two alumni are interested in certification and staff are working to schedule the exam. An alumni certification-prep workshop is being planned.
    b. **WCCC:** Work continues to open the Pearson Vue testing center. Summer workshops are being offered soon and more details will be shared at the next meeting.
    c. **MCCC:** Events have been held to discuss internships, transfer agreements, expanding hands-on skills in the classroom, and certifications. Internships are expected to begin soon.
    d. **BC3:** One BC3 intern has been hired at UPMC. Articulation agreements are underway with PITT. A security+ bootcamp was offered and was opened to an Alumni.
9. The next partner meeting will be held during the 4th Annual PC4A Conference on August 10, 2026.
10. With no further business, the meeting concluded at 4:05 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Taylor and Dr. Waleed Farag.

PC4A Biweekly Meeting
May 18, 2026 at 3:30 PM
Agenda

Previous Meeting Actions

1. Approval of minutes from the April 20, 2026 meeting.

Announcements/Updates

1. **AY24-25 Data Call**
   a. Data Call forms were sent to all partners last week. Partners are asked to complete the forms and return to the PM by Thursday, May 21, 2026. Please include data for all events offered by your institution. Estimates are acceptable.
2. **PC4A Transfer Scholarship**
   a. All partners are asked to encourage students to apply for the PC4A Transfer Scholarship. No applications have been received.
3. **PC4A Annual Student Survey**
   a. Survey responses are being analyzed, and results will be shared with partners soon.
4. **Summer 2026 CTF Interest Survey**
   a. Partners are asked to continue distributing the CTF Interest Survey to assist us with planning a possible CTF in August. Survey responses are due by May 30, 2026. Current response counts are below.

Partner	Responses
BC3	0
MCCC	6
PHCC	2
WCCC	0

5. **Summer 2026 Meeting Schedule**
   a. Partners will be asked to share their availability for meetings this summer.
6. **PC4A Partner Updates**

Minutes of the PC4A Partner Meeting
Held Virtually on May 18, 2026 at 3:30 PM

Members Present: Hauwa Abbas, Jamie Bretz, Michael Caglia, Waleed Farag, Kelli Gardner, Sherri Mack, Greg Paonessa, Christie Sever, Lydia Taylor

Meeting Information

1. Motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2026 meeting was made by Greg Paonessa and seconded by Sherri Mack. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Project leadership discussed the upcoming annual data call submission and emphasized the importance of timely partner reporting. Partners were reminded to submit requested non-student participation estimates by May 21 to support reporting deadlines.
3. Discussion occurred regarding the transfer scholarship opportunity for partner students. Project leadership noted limited application activity and encouraged partners to continue promoting the scholarship opportunity to eligible students.
4. An update was provided regarding analysis of the annual student survey. Project leadership indicated survey results are currently being analyzed and will be shared during a future meeting.
5. Partners discussed the possibility of offering a summer 2026 Capture the Flag competition. Preliminary feedback suggested student interest may exist, although participation during the summer months may be limited. Partners indicated July or August may be the most appropriate timeframe.
6. Discussion occurred regarding future meeting scheduling. Partners agreed to schedule the next meeting for June 22, 2026 at the same meeting time.
7. Partners provided the following updates:
    a. **BC3**: Updates regarding Security+ preparation activities were provided, including the launch of a five-week bootcamp with three participants. Additional updates included articulation efforts with Pitt and exploratory discussions related to additional transfer pathways and dual enrollment opportunities.
    b. **WCCC**: Provided updates regarding Pearson VUE testing center expansion efforts, summer planning activities, and continued efforts to encourage voucher usage among students receiving certification support.
    c. **PHCC**: Provided updates regarding internship activities, certification preparation efforts, curriculum revisions, and expansion of cybersecurity and computer science offerings. Updates included multiple course revisions, creation of new courses, expansion of machine learning content, capstone development, and creation of an applied computer science track. PHCC also reported continued planning for summer internships, alumni certification workshops, youth outreach activities, and participation in upcoming community events and cybersecurity programming.

    d. **MCCC**: Reported completion of A+ and Security+ preparation courses with strong participation numbers. Additional updates included successful completion of a Capture the Flag event, planning activities related to the NICE conference, internship development efforts, and increased industry engagement activities.

8. Partners were reminded to continue sharing flyers, announcements, internship opportunities, and event information so project leadership can amplify outreach through project communication channels.
9. Project leadership introduced Hauwa Abbas, who will be assisting with project activities and support efforts moving forward.
10. The next PC4A meeting was scheduled for June 22, 2026. Partners were reminded about upcoming financial reporting deadlines. With no further business, the meeting concluded at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Taylor and Dr. Waleed Farag.

PC4A Biweekly Meeting
April 20, 2026 at 3:30 PM
Agenda

Previous Meeting Actions

1. Approval of minutes from the March 30, 2026 meeting.

Announcements/Updates

1. **PC4A Quarterly Report**
   a. Thank you to all partners for submitting their quarterly report by the requested deadline. Partners are asked to please keep a close eye on their emails as additional information may be requested over the next week.
2. **Security Clearance Webinar with CTC**
   a. Seven students attended the event held on April 10, 2026. Thank you to all partners for encouraging participation.
3. **PC4A Transfer Scholarships**
   a. The LO will discuss with partners opportunities for transfer scholarships at IUP.
4. **PC4A 2nd Annual CTF Updates**
   a. Seven teams registered for the event, however only five teams competed, with a total of 15 students scoring points across all five teams.
   b. Below are details for the top three teams. We are also acknowledging the highest individual point earner, Natasha Walker from PHCC, who will receive the same prize package as first place team members.

Rank	**First**	**Second**	**Third**
School	*IUP*	*WCCC*	*MCCC*
Team Name	seal_emoji_iOS_14.2	Return of the Wolfpack	WindowsXP11
Members	Owen Schneider Ethan Harkness Sage Gould Paxton Patronas Steve Combary	Marcus Dumbauld Alyson Gaborko Bryson Edwards Michael Swab	Mitch Meed Matthew Holland

5. **Spring 2026 Student Survey**
   a. The student survey closed on April 10, 2026. Responses will be analyzed and shared at the next partner meeting. Below are the final response counts per partner school.

Partner	**Responses**
BC3	25
MCCC	28
PHCC	21
WCCC	24
Total	**98**

6. **PC4A Partner Updates**

Minutes of the PC4A Meeting
Held Virtually on April 20, 2026 at 3:30 PM

Members Present: Hauwa Abbas, Michael Caglia, Waleed Farag, Sherri Mack, Greg Paonessa, Donna Reed, Christie Sever, Lydia Taylor, Barb Zaborowski

Meeting Information

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2026 meeting was made by Greg Paonessa and seconded by Donna Reed. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Partners were thanked for submitting their quarterly reports. Invoices were submitted to the RI and are being processed for reimbursement.
3. An update was provided on the Security Clearance Webinar. The second webinar had stronger student participation than the first session, and students asked questions. The webinar was intended to help students better understand the security clearance process and reduce uncertainty around the steps involved.
4. Discussion was held regarding transfer scholarships for students transferring to IUP for cybersecurity. The project team is preparing to reopen the scholarship application for Fall 2026. The scholarship will provide tuition support for one semester, with possible renewal depending on available funding and the status of the project extension. Partners were asked to share the application with interested students as soon as possible before the end of the semester.
    a. Clarification was provided that the scholarship is primarily intended for students transferring into cybersecurity. Students interested in other computer science tracks may be considered as exceptions, but the focus should remain cybersecurity as it aligns with the grant.
5. An update was provided on the second annual PC4A Capture the Flag (CTF) event. Seven teams registered, with five teams participating, for a total of 15 students. Participation was lower than the previous year. The top three teams were recognized, and an individual Penn Highlands student who received the highest individual points will also receive a first-place-level prize. Penn Highlands may coordinate with its media department to photograph the award presentation.
6. Discussion was held regarding whether to offer another CTF or hackathon over the summer. Partners noted that summer participation may be difficult because many students are not on campus or are transient summer students. Staff will develop and distribute an interest survey to partners before deciding whether to move forward with a summer event. Future CTF registration may also collect more information about student skill level so challenges can be better matched to participants.
7. An update was provided on the student survey. The survey has closed, and responses will be analyzed and shared with partners soon.
8. Partners were reminded that the project team will be very busy through the end of the month due to quarterly reporting, scholarship application materials, the potential CTF interest survey, and CAE-related activities.

9. Partners provided the following updates:
    a. **WCCC**: Continued progress toward opening a Pearson VUE testing center. Setup has taken longer than expected as IT needed to adjust server and testing-station configurations after receiving official Pearson VUE requirements. WCCC hopes to complete internal testing by the end of April and officially open in May. Several summer camps are scheduled from June through August, primarily for high school students, with some possible middle school participation. WCCC is also considering a Network+ workshop after finals. In the recent self-paced A+ preparation effort, five students signed up, four completed the voucher-qualifying test, and all four earned Core 1 vouchers. WCCC also participated in BotsIQ at PennWest California, using a prize wheel, 3D printer, and Raspberry Pi 5 raffle to attract students and share program information. Photos from the event will be shared for possible social media promotion.
    b. **PHCC**: Developed additional outreach materials, including a cybersecurity-themed Guess Who activity for an upcoming Career Discovery Day with approximately 70 local high school students. PHCC has updated cybersecurity courses and is submitting changes to the Applied Technology computer science track, including five new courses. PHCC is planning an after-graduation Network+ and Security+ workshop and may offer another workshop near the end of summer depending on student and alumni interest. Current certification attainment is still pending, with approximately six students expected to test when ready. A future capstone course will include the certification exam as a course requirement. PHCC is also beginning its summer internship process. BSides will be held at Penn Highlands on Thursday, November 12, 2026.
    c. **MCCC**: A+ and Security+ workshops are scheduled for the end of the semester/beginning of May. Virtual participation may be permitted, but students must still pass the practice exam to receive a voucher. MCCC recently held its CTF event with eight participating teams, including a team from the math department. Continued exposure and student testimonials may help build participation over time. MCCC is also preparing for the NICE Conference in June and is exploring a small networking event with local businesses focused on internships and apprenticeships. MCCC has approximately two summer interns lined up and hopes to identify more. Donna also shared information about Virginia's Commonwealth Cyber Initiative as a possible model for cybersecurity internships, apprenticeships, and statewide collaboration.
    d. **BC3**: Held its cybersecurity conference on April 8 with 86 attendees, 10 more than the previous year. The theme was AI and cybersecurity, with speakers addressing AI-related security and privacy issues across areas such as manufacturing, autonomous vehicles, robotics, healthcare, patient records, and secure programming. BC3 is considering moving the conference to October to align with Cybersecurity Awareness Month and may offer virtual options for some sessions. A Security+ camp is expected to begin in May, with two current

students, one alum/outside participant, and possibly two additional participants. BC3 may coordinate with MCCC if a virtual option is needed. Marketing for future offerings will likely increase in mid-summer or early August.

10. The next partner meeting will be held on May 18, 2026 at 3:30 PM EST.
11. With no further business, the meeting concluded at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Taylor and Dr. Waleed Farag.

PC4A Biweekly Meeting
March 30, 2026 at 3:30 PM
Agenda

Previous Meeting Actions

1. Approval of minutes from the February 23, 2026 meeting.

Announcements/Updates

1. **Quarterly Reports**
   a. Report templates have been sent to all partners, and reports are due back to the PM by **April 17, 2026**. Partners are asked to carefully review the templates as additional data is requested for recipients of scholarships and internships. Please include as much detail as possible in reports, including documentation for events.

2. **Lack of POGIL Workshop Participation**
   a. Seven faculty registered for the POGIL workshop, and only two attended the full event.
   b. Partners are asked to comment on the lack of participation and offer solutions to better engage faculty in the future.

3. **Spring Capture-The-Flag**
   a. Only one team has registered for the PC4A CTF with will be held on April 10, 2025. Faculty are asked to encourage teams to register now so we can adequately prepare for the event.
   b. **If at least five teams do not register, the event may be cancelled.**

4. **Spring 2026 Student Survey**
   a. Below are current response numbers for the PC4A Student Survey. All partners are asked to encourage students to participate, and to ask faculty to require completion of the survey in their classes. ***Due to low responses, the survey deadline has been extended to April 10, 2026.***

Partner	Responses
BC3	24
MCCC	23
PHCC	6
WCCC	24

5. **Security Clearance Lunch and Learn**
   b. Only two students attended the Security Clearance Webinar held on March 20, 2026. Partners are asked to encourage students to attend the next event, which will be held on April 10, 2026 at 12:00PM.

6. **Mid-Year Progress Reports**
   c. Partners will be contacted soon to schedule Mid-Year progress reports.

7. **PC4A Partner Updates**

Minutes of the PC4A Meeting
Held Virtually on March 30, 2026 at 3:30 PM

Members Present: Jamie Bretz, Michael Caglia, Waleed Farag, Josh Hamilton, Sherri Mack, Greg Paonessa, Donna Reed, Christie Sever, Lydia Taylor

Meeting Information

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2026 meeting was made by Christie Sever and seconded by Sherri Mack. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Partners were reminded that quarterly technical reports for January–March 2026 are due April 17, 2026. Updated reporting templates were distributed and partners were encouraged to use them to ensure compliance. Invoices are due April 10, 2026.
3. Discussion was held regarding low participation in the POGIL workshop. Only two faculty completed the most recent workshop. Partners identified competing priorities, time constraints, and lack of alignment with current interests (particularly AI) as barriers.
    a. Partners suggested offering shorter training sessions (e.g., 1–2 hour sessions) and incorporating artificial intelligence topics to increase engagement. The project team will explore alternative formats and potential new providers.
4. Participation in the upcoming Capture the Flag (CTF) event on April 10–11, 2026 was discussed. Very low registration numbers were reported. Partners were strongly encouraged to recruit at least one team per institution.
    a. Strategies to increase student participation in the CTF were discussed, including demonstrating beginner-friendly challenges, offering incentives, sharing tutorial resources, and integrating participation into coursework.
5. An update was provided on the student survey. The deadline has been extended to April 10, 2026 to increase participation. An issue with duplicate IP restrictions was identified and resolved.
6. Partners were reminded to promote the upcoming Security Clearance Webinar scheduled for April 10, 2026.
7. Partners provided the following updates:
    a. **WCCC**: Continued progress toward opening a Pearson VUE testing center. Final setup and certification steps are underway, with an open house tentatively planned for April 29, 2026. Multiple summer camps are scheduled throughout June, with additional camps possible later in the summer. Certification bootcamps are ongoing, with students preparing to test.
    b. **PHCC**: Five students participated in recent certification workshops and are preparing for Security+ and Network+ exams. Interns remain actively engaged and may form a team for the upcoming CTF. Outreach activities are planned, including hosting approximately 75 high school students for cybersecurity engagement events. Participation in the CAE Symposium is also planned.
    c. **BC3**: A third intern has been added to the IT department and may be encouraged to participate in the CTF. Interest in the Security+ bootcamp is lower than expected; however, the program remains open to additional participants, including students from

partner institutions. Consideration is being given to including non-student participants such as IT professionals.

   d. **MCCC**: Plans are underway to ensure at least one team participates in the upcoming PC4A CTF. Faculty are also managing competing priorities related to AI initiatives and Title II compliance requirements, which may impact participation in other activities.

8. The next partner meeting will be held on April 20, 2026 at 3:30 PM EST.
9. With no further business, the meeting concluded at 4:20PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Taylor and Dr. Waleed Farag.

PC4A Biweekly Meeting
February 23, 2026 at 3:30 PM
Agenda

Previous Meeting Actions

1. Approval of minutes from the January 26, 2026 meeting.

Announcements/Updates

1. **Possible Extension of PC4A**
    a. It is possible that PC4A will be awarded an option year, extending the project through August 2027. Partners have been contacted regarding their commitment to continuing their involvement, and more details will be shared as soon as available.
2. **New Data Reporting Requirements on Quarterly Reports**
    a. The funding agency recently requested more specific data on the impact of our efforts, including "unique" participants and total funds spent on participant support. Moving forward, quarterly report templates will now require name/ID of interns and scholarship recipients, and templates will be distributed by the beginning of March 2026.
3. **Lack of POGIL Interest**
    a. Only four responses have been received for the POGIL workshop survey. Partners will be asked to discuss lack of interest and possible alternatives for faculty development activities.
4. **Spring Capture-The-Flag**
    a. The PC4A Beginner CTF will be held on April 10-11, 2026. Marketing materials and registration links will be shared with partners as soon as the environment is built.
5. **Spring 2026 Student Survey**
    a. A link to the Spring 2026 Student Survey will be sent to partners soon, and all are asked to encourage students to complete the survey. Responses are due by March 31, 2026.
6. **Security Clearance Lunch and Learn**
    a. A lunch and learn event will be offered by Concurrent Technologies Corporation this semester for students to learn more about the security clearance process. Partners will be asked to provide feedback on best dates and times.
7. **Mid-Year Progress Reports**
    a. Mid-year progress meetings will be held in late March or early April. Partners will be contacted soon with updates on dates/times and agenda.
8. **PC4A Partner Updates**

Minutes of the PC4A Partner Meeting
Held Virtually on February 23, 2026 at 3:30 pm

Members Present: Waleed Farag, Josh Hamilton, Sherri Mack, Tim McCroskey, Greg Paonessa, Donna Reed, Christie Sever, Lydia Taylor, Wally Zapotoczny

Meeting Information

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2026 meeting was made and the motion passed unanimously.
2. The PI was recently contacted by the funding agency regarding the possibility of an option year for PC4A. Partners were contacted regarding their commitment, and the PI and PM are working on submitting the requested documentation. More details will be provided as soon as possible.
3. The funding agency recently requested more specific data on the PC4A projects, including "unique participants" and total funds spent on participant related activities (internships, scholarships, vouchers, etc.). Quarterly reports templates will now require additional information.
    a. The PM will continue to track all relevant project data, and partners do not need to submit any data retroactively.
    b. No identifying information will be shared with other partners or posted publicly. Partners can choose to submit on student ID numbers if they prefer. Data is only used to track "unique participants."
4. Only four responses have been received for the POGIL workshop survey. Partners were asked to continue advertising the workshop to their faculty, as at least two faculty are requested to attend from each partner school.
5. The second annual PC4A CTF will be held on April 10-11, 2026. Marketing materials will be shared with all partners as soon as the environment is built and students are able to register their teams.
6. A link to the annual PC4A Student Survey will be shared with partners soon, and all were asked to encourage students to complete the survey.
7. Concurrent Technologies Corporation will be offering another Security Clearance lunch and learn. Partners agreed that two separate webinars would be best to encourage participation. The webinar is tentatively scheduled for March 20 and April 10, 2026. More details will be provided to partners soon.
8. Partners will be contacted soon to schedule mid-year progress review meetings.
9. Partners provided updates on their recent activities.
10. The next partner meeting will be held on March 30, 2026 at 3:30 PM EST.
11. With no further business, the meeting concluded at 4:15 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Taylor and Dr. Waleed Farag.

PC4A Biweekly Meeting
January 26, 2026 at 3:30 PM
Agenda

Previous Meeting Actions

1. Approval of minutes from the December 18, 2025 meeting.

Announcements/Updates

1. **Spring 2026 Faculty Development Activities**
   a. Partners will be asked to discuss dates and topics for the upcoming faculty development workshops.
2. **Transfer Agreements with IUP**
   a. Details will be shared on the status of transfer agreements with IUP.
3. **Spring Capture-The-Flag**
   a. Partners will be asked to pick a date/focus for the "beginner friendly" CTF offered by PC4A in the spring. This event will be offered prior to the CTF MCCC is planning in April.
4. **Textbook/Lab Vouchers**
   a. The LO is offering textbook/lab vouchers for spring/summer 2026. Partners are asked to email the PM asap if they would like to request vouchers.
5. **Mid-Year Progress Reports**
   a. Mid-year progress meetings will be held in March. Partners will be contacted soon with updates on dates/times and agenda.
6. **Goldwater Scholarship Opportunity**
   a. A $7,500 scholarship opportunity is available to sophomore/junior students interested in pursuing a research career. Students must be nominated, which can come from the community college they attended prior to transferring. Visit the scholarship website for more information. Nominated students have a 1 in 3 chance of being selected for the scholarship.
7. **PC4A Partner Updates**

Minutes of the PC4A Partner Meeting
Held Virtually on January 26, 2026 at 3:30 pm

Members Present: Michael Caglia, Waleed Farag, Josh Hamilton, Sherri Mack, Tim McCroskey, Greg Paonessa, Donna Reed, Lydia Taylor, Barb Zaborowski

Meeting Information

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2025 meeting was made by Barb Zaborowski and seconded by Donna Reed. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Partners were asked to discuss the best timeframe and focus of the upcoming POGIL faculty development workshop. Partners agreed that March 27, 2026 was best, and a hybrid offering would increase participation. A survey will be distributed to partners soon to determine if a beginner or advanced workshop is most beneficial.
3. Due to the general education requirements at IUP, all new transfer agreements are currently on hold, and all existing transfer agreements must be updated by June 2026. To continue moving forward with Objective #2 of the project, the IUP transfer department has offered to create "guides" that will assist students with planning. Partners were asked to provide feedback on this idea, and all agreed that a guide would be helpful.
4. Partners were asked to provide feedback on best possible dates for the beginner CTF. The CTF was tentatively scheduled for April 10-11, 2026.
5. The LO is offering to purchase textbook/lab vouchers for students in spring and summer. Partners who are interested in vouchers were asked to contact the PM with their requests.
6. Mid-year project progress meetings will be held with partners sometime in March 2026. Partners were asked to be on the lookout for availability requests.
7. Details on the Goldwater Scholarship Program were shared with partners, and all were encouraged to advertise the opportunity to their students.
8. Partners provided the following updates:
    a. **PHCC**: Scholarships have been determined for the spring semester. Three students are interested in internships. A social deduction game is being developed to help students determine a possible role of interest in cybersecurity. A certification workshop is tentatively planned for spring break. Professional development efforts are being expanded in AI.
    b. **WCCC**: Work continues to get the contract for the Pearson Vue testing center signed. Certification workshops will be planned soon.
    c. **MCCC**: The CompTIA Security+ workshop was offered to 15 students, one of which is from WCCC and six vouchers have been awarded so far. The ambassador program is getting a lot of attention and will hopefully be supported by internships. The CTF is planned for April 20 which will be open to all students.
    d. **BC3**: The CompTIA Network+ bootcamp was offered to three students, two of whom passed their certification. Work has begun to plan the Annual Cybersecurity Conference. A CompTIA Security+ bootcamp will be offered in May 2026.
9. The next partner meeting will be held on February 23, 2026 at 3:30 PM EST.
10. With no further business, the meeting concluded at 4:20 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Taylor and Dr. Waleed Farag.

PC4A Biweekly Meeting
December 18, 2025 at 3:00 PM
Agenda

Previous Meeting Actions

1. Approval of minutes from the November 20, 2025 meeting.

Announcements/Updates

1. **Cybersecurity Certification Survey**
   a. 140 submissions have been received for the certification survey. Thank you to all partners for continuing to ask students to complete it. Please make one last push as the deadline is December 31, 2025.
2. **Quarterly Report Templates/Deadline**
   a. Quarterly report templates were sent to all partners on December 1, 2025. Reports are due to the PM by **no later than January 16, 2026**. Please be sure to include as much detail as possible.
3. **Spring Capture-The-Flag**
   a. Updates and plans for the Spring CTF will be shared.
4. **Spring 2026 Partner Meeting Schedule**
   a. Partners will be asked to share their availability for monthly meetings during the spring 2026 semester.
5. **PC4A Partner Updates (activities since last meeting)**

Minutes of the PC4A Partner Meeting
Held Virtually on December 18, 2025 at 3:00 pm

Members Present: Josh Hamilton, Sherri Mack, Greg Paonessa, Donna Reed, Christie Sever, Robert Stefko, Lydia Taylor, Wally Zapotoczny

Meeting Information

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025 meeting was made by Greg Paonessa and seconded by Sherri Mack. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Partners were thanked for sharing the certification survey with their students. So far, 141 submissions have been received. Partners were asked to make one last push for submissions as the survey will close on December 31, 2025.
3. Quarterly report templates were distributed to partners in early December. Partners were asked to share detailed information about their activities, and to include any documentation. Partners were asked to be sure to include any updates on transfer agreements as they are a main focus of the project in Y4.
    a. Partners were asked to reach out if they need support getting new/updated agreements with IUP.
4. Partners were asked to discuss the best plan for offering a CTF this spring:
    a. MCCC is planning a CTF for early April, and they are also offering a faculty development workshop to help faculty understand CTF competitions, how to facilitate them, prepare their students, etc.
    b. Partners discussed the idea of having a beginner CTF event prior to the MCCC CTF event, which could also include high school students. All partners agreed this was a good idea.
5. Partners asked that a form be distributed to determine the best day/time for spring 2026 meetings.
6. Partners provided the following updates:
    a. **BC3**: Les is currently offering the CompTIA Net+ bootcamp, with an estimated six students. Planning will begin soon to offer the 3rd Annual Cybersecurity Conference. Feedback regarding TestOut since the CompTIA purchase has been poor. TestOut will continue to be used through the spring, and changes may be made for subsequent semesters.
    b. **PHCC**: Cert-prep workshop details were sent to students, and some seem interested in attending. Two students requested vouchers on their own, and faculty are working to get those distributed. Multiple students are interested in an internship, and intern selections will begin soon. AI tools have been incorporated into CS and IT classes. New AI-focused hands-on activities will be developed over the winter break.
    c. **MCCC**: 13 out of 19 students showed up in person for the CompTIA A+ bootcamp so far. Students who complete the practice exam with an 80% or higher will be awarded an exam voucher. The CompTIA Security+ bootcamp will be offered in early January. Two intern positions are open and interns will be selected soon.
    d. **WCCC**: An open house was held for the new makerspace at WCCC. Michael Caglia attended the Eastern Westmoreland occupational advisory board. The Pearson Vue

Testing Center is ready to open, just currently waiting on the contract to be signed by the WCCC president. A CompTIA A+ bootcamp will be held in the spring.

7. The next partner meeting will be held in January 2026, time TBD.
8. With no further business, the meeting concluded at 3:36 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Taylor and Dr. Waleed Farag.

PC4A Biweekly Meeting
November 20, 2025 at 3:00 PM
Agenda

Previous Meeting Actions

1. Approval of minutes from the October 16, 2025 meeting.

Announcements/Updates

1. **NDEP Award Annual Meeting**
   a. The NDEP Annual Award Meeting will be held on January 21 and 22, 2026 from 1:00 PM to 3:15 PM. A new registration link will be shared with partners as soon as possible. All are encouraged to attend.
2. **Cybersecurity Certification Survey**
   a. All partners are asked to continue distributing the cybersecurity certification survey to all students in their classes. Due to lack of responses, the deadline for submission has been moved to December 31, 2025.
3. **Quarterly Report Templates/Deadline**
   a. Quarterly report templates will be sent to partners by December 1, 2025. Reports are due to the PM by **no later than January 16, 2026**.
4. **Certification and Career Prep Lunch and Learn**
   a. All partners are asked to provide the best date/times for a possible lunch and learn in early December. The presentation will focus on the importance of certifications and other tips to help prepare students for their careers.
5. **December Partner Meeting**
   a. The next partner meeting will be held on Thursday, December 18, 2025.
6. **PC4A Partner Updates (activities since last meeting)**

Minutes of the PC4A Partner Meeting
Held Virtually on November 20, 2025 at 3:00 pm

Members Present: Jamie Bretz, Josh Hamilton, Greg Paonessa, Tim McCroskey, Donna Reed, Robert Stefko, Lydia Taylor

Meeting Information

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2025 meeting was made by Greg Paonessa and seconded by Jamie Bretz. The motion passed unanimously.
2. The upcoming NDEP Award Annual Meeting will now be held on January 21 and 22, 2026 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. All partners are encouraged to attend. A registration link will be sent to partners as soon as possible.
3. Partners were thanked for distributing the certification survey as many more responses have been received from MCCC and WCCC students. All partners were asked to continue distributing the survey to current students and alumni. The deadline for responses has been extended to December 31, 2025.
4. Quarterly report templates will be sent to all partners by December 1, 2025. All partners are asked to provide as much detail as possible and to include any documentation to highlight their efforts. Reports are due to the PM by no later than January 16, 2026.
5. Partners were asked to provide the best date/time for a possible lunch and learn focused on career prep and certifications in early December. Partners agreed that pushing the lunch and learn to early spring would encourage more participation.
6. Partners provided the following updates:
    a. **MCCC**: Work with the PAC Ecosystem is providing connections with others including contacts who want to get involved with the upcoming CTF and offer paid internships. Interns will be selected soon. A CompTIA A+ bootcamp will be offered in December, and a CompTIA Network+ bootcamp will be offered in January. These workshops will be opened to partner students.
    b. **PHCC**: Over 16 students attended IUP's cybersecurity day virtually, which went very well. Work continues to set up spring internships at the Richland and Altoona campuses. A web-based activity is currently in development to help prepare students for CTF-style competitions. Scholarships have been distributed.
7. The next partner meeting will be held at 3:00 PM EST on December 18, 2025.
8. With no further business, the meeting concluded at 3:25 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Taylor and Dr. Waleed Farag.

PC4A Biweekly Meeting
October 16, 2025 at 3:00 PM
Agenda

Previous Meeting Actions

1. Approval of minutes from the August 4, 2025 meeting.

Announcements/Updates

1. **Impact of Government Shutdown**
   a. The funding agency shared the following message in regard to the impact of the government shutdown: ***"As all NDEP awards are made with prior appropriations (e.g. not FY26 dollars), there is no impact to your NDEP funding or programming. Please continue to conduct programming as planned/scheduled."***
   b. Some members of the DoD STEM team are still working during the shutdown, and the PI is regularly communicating with them.
   c. More details will be shared with partners if/when they become available.
2. **NDEP Award Annual Meeting**
   a. The NDEP Award Annual Meeting will be held (tentatively) on November 12-13, 2025, from 1:00pm to 3:15pm. The registration link has been disabled, however partners are strongly encouraged to attend and more information will be shared as soon as possible.
3. **Y4 Subaward Updates**
   a. All partners have signed their Y4 documents and all but one subaward has been fully executed by the IUP Research Institute.
4. **18th Annual Cybersecurity Day at IUP**
   a. The 18th Annual Cybersecurity Day will be held at IUP on October 28, 2025. All partners are encouraged to bring students/faculty and attend in person (if possible). The event will also be livestreamed for partner students/faculty to attend virtually. If anyone is interested in attending in-person, please register using this form (lunch will be provided).
5. **Cybersecurity Certification Survey**
   a. All partners are asked to have students complete the certification survey during class sessions to increase responses. Dr. Farag sent a reminder to everyone earlier this week.
6. **PC4A Partner Updates (activities since last meeting)**

Minutes of the PC4A Partner Meeting
Held Virtually on October 16, 2025 at 3:00 pm

Members Present: Jamie Bretz, Michael Caglia, Waleed Farag, Josh Hamilton, Sherri Mack, Greg Paonessa, Donna Reed, Christie Sever, Robert Stefko, Lydia Taylor, Barb Zaborowski

Meeting Information

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2025 meeting was made and approved unanimously.
2. Communication from the funding agency was shared with all partners regarding the ongoing government shutdown. The shutdown has no impact on PC4A and all programming should be conducted as planned/scheduled.
3. The NDEP Award Annual Meeting has been postponed until November 12 and 13 (tentatively). The registration link is no longer active, but a new link will be shared with partners as soon as possible. All partners are encouraged to attend the meeting.
4. All partners have signed their subawards, and all but one subaward has been fully executed by the IUP Research Institute. Partners were thanked for submitting their documents in a timely manner.
5. The 18th Annual Cybersecurity Day will be held at IUP on Tuesday, October 28, 2025. Lunch will be provided by our sponsors, and all those attending in person are asked to register online. The event will also be livestreamed for students/faculty who are not able to attend in person.
6. All partners were asked to continue sharing the certification survey with their students and encourage all students to submit it.
7. Partners provided the following updates:
    a. **WCCC**: Members of the Cyber Tech club attended a tour of the CMU NREC. Work continues to launch the Pearson Vue testing center. Planning has begun for certification and other cyber camps.
    b. **PHCC**: Plans to attend Cybersecurity Day either in person or virtually are underway, depending on student interest. Fall internships are moving forward with one intern expected at both Richland and Blair campuses. Scholarships will be distributed soon. A CTF is being coordinated with the Computer Club, and collaboration continues with South Hills to offer another CTF soon.
    c. **MCCC**: Work has begun to establish an advisory board, in combination with the expansion of the internship program. An A+ cert-prep workshop is being planned for early January 2026. The exam voucher is now included within course materials. 20 licenses have been purchased from Hack the Box for their learning platform, and licenses have been distributed to members of the new cybertech club.
    d. **BC3**: Scholarships application has been published, and scholarships funds will be split between the fall and spring semesters. One intern has begun this semester with the IT department. A winter bootcamp will be held for Network+.
8. With no further business, the meeting concluded at 3:45 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Taylor and Dr. Waleed Farag.