Governor Cuomo Congratulates Winners of New York Cyber Security Competition
Albany, NY (May 27, 2014)

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo congratulates the winners of New York’s Cyber Aces Competition, a virtual statewide contest to help identify talented individuals who are qualified to work within the state’s cyber industry.

“Our State is utilizing new and creative ways to train New York’s workforce for the jobs of the 21st century,” Governor Cuomo said. “We are producing a new generation of talented New Yorkers who are ready and able to protect our state’s critical infrastructure and businesses from online threats. I congratulate the winners of New York’s Cyber Ace’s competition, and encourage those interested in working in this industry to take advantage of the abundant opportunities offered here in New York.”

40 competitors were chosen to compete in this online championship from a field of more than 1,000 candidates. Those 40 competitors from across the state were challenged using SANS NetWars, the same hands-on simulation used by the U.S. military to train officers in network warfare. The contenders included college students, job seekers, and high school students among others.

The winners are as follows:
- 1st place - Kevin Stilwell, of Vernon, NY
- 2nd place - Dan Woodruff of Henrietta, NY
- 3rd place - Mark Scrano of Manlius, NY

The three winners will share $10,000 in prize money awarded by Cyber Aces. These top competitors have now been invited to participate in the “Panopoly” competition at the New York State Cyber Security Conference, hosted by the Office of Information Technology, on June 3 & 4, 2014 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany.

Executive Director and Senior Policy Advisor for the New York State Cyber Security Advisory Board, Peter Bloniarz, said, “I want to thank Governor Cuomo for making cyber security a priority for the state. I am hopeful that all the competitors in New York’s Cyber Aces competition will choose to take advantage of the opportunities that New York State provides as a leader in the STEM fields and business opportunities in those areas.”

Cyber Aces, a national nonprofit 501(c)3 organization works to provide a pathway for individuals seeking cyber security jobs, which are growing in need. Currently there is a critical shortage of skilled cyber professionals, and programs such as Cyber Aces uncover people with high potential, offering them a fast-track to the industry. U.S. businesses and government are coming under an increasing number of cyber attacks.

“There are too many frequent flyers and not enough fighter pilots,” said Cyber Aces Founder Alan Paller, and SANS Institute Director of Research. “We need a new group of cyber defenders who can out-think and out-maneuver attackers. In two years, they’ll have the skills that will make them some of the most sought-after candidates on the job market.”

Governor Cuomo created the New York State Cyber Security Advisory Board in May of 2013, and the Board includes former White House Advisors and top members of the cyber security community.

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