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# Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award Nomination

## Nominee's Name:

**Donna Jean Woods**

Level of education taught  
Educator's state  
Educator's city  
Educator's work name

Secondary<sup>1</sup>  
California  
Moreno Valley  
Canyon Springs High School / Moreno Valley USD  
Riverside County Office of Education

Educator's work email address  
Educator's work contact number

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Nominator  
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Educator's Education:

MS Workforce Education and Development  
BS Workforce Education and Development  
MS/BS Southern Illinois University, Carbondale  
CTE Designated Subjects, Clear Credential in  
Information Technology, CA  
CTE Designated Subjects, Clear Credential in  
Finance and Business, CA

Educator's Employment History:

MVUSD Cyber Academic Pathway, Lead Instructor  
Canyon Springs High School, 5 yrs.  
Information Communication Technology Instructor  
(CIS/GIS) Canyon Springs High School, 14 yrs.  
Manager of Academic Relations, Cyber-Guild 2 yrs.

Supplemental Links:

Donna Woods, CTE/ICT Cyber Pathway [Video](#)  
MVUSD Cyber Student Stories, [Link1](#) and [Link2](#)  
MVUSD Cyber Innovation Center, [Video](#)  
Donna Woods List of Accomplishments, [Link](#)

11 - California EDUCATION CODE, Title 1, Division1, Part 1, Chapter 1, Article 5, Paragraph 52: The secondary schools of the state are designated as high schools, technical schools, and adult schools. (Amended by Stats. 1990, Ch. 1372, Sec. 5.)



## Superior Educator Accomplishment

As an educator, Donna Woods's passion is found in serving underrepresented and at-risk student populations as a Cyber/STEM Interdisciplinary Educator providing equitable access across ethnic, cultural, academic, and socio-economic spheres. Her first priority is to ensure her students have an in-depth understanding of the knowledge, skills, and abilities within the NICE Cybersecurity Workforce Framework and NICCS career readiness, technical, and industry standards towards developing a future ethical workforce of cybersecurity experts. The three-year guided pathway and dual-enrollment courses guarantee students obtain college credits and industry certifications validating their subject mastery and college and career readiness.

Donna Woods serves as a devoted advocate on behalf of students, families, and educators throughout the state in writing and receiving grants valued at \$4.1 million. The funding cultivates viable academic investment, curricula development, collaboration, and economic workforce partnerships between K-20, regional and state consortia, government, and industry while providing invaluable opportunities for *all* students. Culminating in the construction of the *nation's first 7,000 square foot Cyber Innovation Center on a high school campus designed to serve students, community, and businesses throughout the region, state, and nation.*

Donna authored the UC a-g Cyber Guided Pathway curriculum for Riverside County Office of Education consisting of three yearlong courses of tiered-level development and two Dual-Enrollment ICT courses for college credit, infusing cybersecurity throughout the educational portfolio. Courses are focused and aligned to CTE, NICE Framework, and Industry Standards. The curriculum has been adopted by numerous school districts throughout the state as a model curriculum, due to the rigor, industry validation, and innovative key projects integrated into each course including community outreach/service, student led conference presentations, case studies research, evaluation, and solutions, cyber competitions, and internships and apprenticeships. Notably, throughout the five years of the cyber program, all students-representing diverse academic levels-have achieved 100% graduation rates, 100% college and career readiness attainment, and 97.4% industry certifications.

In collaboration with the Inland Empire/Desert Regional Consortium, industry partners, city officials, and legislative leaders, Donna has guided the development of a four-year, work-based learning and training program wherein students begin with job shadowing, progress to internships during their junior year, and obtain paid internships during their senior year, continuing as paid apprenticeships during college.

Through these partnerships, Donna successfully developed/coaches nationally recognized, state award winning cyber competition teams for middle schools and high schools at MVUSD. Extending beyond her district, she hosts CyberPatriot Summer Camps and authored the Coaches Training Manual to teach/mentor instructors from California and our nation on developing cyber academic pathways, after-school clubs, and competitive teams.

Donna testified before the Joint Cybersecurity Session in Sacramento and serves as a conference presenter throughout the nation at NICE K12, 3CS, CTE Educating for Careers,



WASTC Cisco, and SoCal Cybersecurity Summit. Community outreach and service with her students includes: GEMS, Girls that Code, Girls Go Cyber Start, NSA National Day of Cyber, United Way, Girls Scout Cybersecurity Day, Senior Cyber Awareness, and Small Business Cyber Readiness.

Certifications: Microsoft Expert Certified, IT Fundamentals+, and Cybrary Certifications in Cryptography, Networks, Data Forensics.

### Academic Achievement of Students

Donna’s students’ greatest achievement within the Cyber Academic Pathway is in breaking the barriers that sought to define them such as poverty, foster-youth, homelessness, and determining to be the first in their family to attend college. Throughout their five-year journey, it is the students who seized the opportunity provided them, determined and planned their outcome, and chartered their destiny and future in cybersecurity.

Comprising the full range of academic ability from Special Needs, English Language Learner, and Honors to AP, the students continually master the art of collaborative team building in learning how to draw from each other’s strengths, critically strategize to surpass their weaknesses, and celebrate shared victories in all areas.

<b>Accomplishment</b>	<b>Inaugural Year 2014-15 &amp; Beyond</b>	<b>Current Year 2019-2020</b>	<b>Total Since 2014 Successful Growth Attainment</b>
After-School Club	23 Students	147 Students	386 Students Served Increase of 539.13%
# Course Offerings	0 in 2014-15	5	12 Sections of 5 Courses
# Students in Courses Cyber Academic Pathway 3 Years in Developing and Expanding Pathway	2015-16 Inaugural Year 36 Students Cybersecurity I	CTE Three-Year Pathway 267 + 28 in Dual-Enrollment CIS 1A & CIS 21	571 Students Served Increase of 719.44%
# Middle School Expansion	0	5 Middle School’s 73 Students	200%
# Students in Cyber Competition Teams	2 Teams with 12 Students	14 High School Teams 7 Middle School Teams 126 Students	Increase of 950% of teams and students
# Cyber Summer Camps	1 Camp in 2017 with 26 Students 3 HS Student Mentors 2 Instructors	4 Camps in 2019 280 Students 30 HS & Alumni Mentors 5 HS & CC Instructors	Total over 3 Years 426 Students Served Increase of 976.92%
# Cyber Coaches Training	1 in 2018 6 Instructors Trained	3 in 2019 27 Instructors Trained	Total of 33 Served Increase of 350%



# Internships	9 in 2016 11 in 2017 15 in 2018	17 in 2019	Total of 42 Increase of 88.8%
# Certifications	14 in 2015	320 Micro Certifications 57 IT Fundamentals+ in 2018	Increase of 2592%
Graduation Rate All Academic Levels	100% Inaugural Year 2015-16	100% Each Consecutive Year	100% Graduation Rate Four Years Total = 105 Seniors
College & Career Readiness	100% Inaugural Year 2015-16	100% Obtaining Articulated Credits 100% Obtaining Dual-Enrollment Credits	100% College and Career Readiness Attainment Four Years Total = 105 Seniors

MVUSD Cyber Academic Pathway students have obtained over \$7.3 Million in scholarships within the past five years, obtaining notable full scholarships to the Air Force Academy, University California Los Angeles, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Cal State San Jose, Cal Poly Pomona, and Cal State San Bernardino with alumni currently serving as Network Analyst, Systems Engineers, IT Network Specialist, and in numerous non IT related career fields that require cybersecurity safeguards, knowledge, and certification in medical, government, education, business, commerce, and finance.

Competitively the CyberPatriot Teams have earned 9-Platinum Tier Semi-Finalist, 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> in State, Gold Tier, 2-2<sup>nd</sup> in State, Gold Tier, 12-Gold Tier Semi-Finalist, and 2-1<sup>st</sup> in State, Silver Tier and three middle school national semi-finalist teams.



## List of Endorsements for Donna Woods

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Inaugural Class to Pursue Cyber Careers*

## ACRONYMS

3CS = Community College Cyber Summit  
AFA = Air Force Association  
CA = California  
CAE = Center of Academic Excellence  
CIS = Computer Information Security  
CISO = Chief Information Security Officer  
CSU = California State University  
GEMS = Girls Excelling in Mathematics Successfully  
GIS = Geographic Information Systems  
ICT = Information & Communication Technology  
CTE = Career & Technical Education  
MVUSD = Moreno Valley Unified School District  
NICCS = National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies  
NICE = National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education  
NSA = National Security Agency  
STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics  
UC = University of California  
WASTC = Western Academy Support & Training Center