

Please Note..

This webinar and the engagement tools will be recorded.

An archive will be available on the [event website](#).

Expanding Cybersecurity Learning and Workforce Opportunities for Rural Americans

February 21, 2024



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Inclusion*



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Rural Tech Fund



Overlooked & Underfunded

Fueling the workforce by
amplifying and empowering
older, rural job seekers

February 21, 2024



Rural, Older America by the Numbers

- 20% of rural residents are over age 65
- 31% of rural residents do not have access to broadband at home
- 85% of rural workers want full-time remote work
- 36% of older workers are participating in the workforce
- 25% of older job seekers are facing long term unemployment
- 92% of jobs require digital skills

[Navigating Challenges Faced by Rural American Job Seekers: A Comprehensive Guide – The Center for Workforce Inclusion](#)

Digital Divide - The Axis of Adversity

OLDER HIGH-INCOME

Older, high-income job seekers have greater ability to access digital tools, but did not grow up practicing digital skills as part of their daily life.



YOUNGER HIGH-INCOME

Younger, high-income job seekers have greater access to digital tools and grew up practicing digital skills as part of their daily life.



OLDER LOW-INCOME

Older, low-income job seekers are more likely to lack both access to digital equipment and experience with digital skills.



YOUNGER LOW-INCOME

Younger, low-income job seekers lack access to digital tools, but grew up practicing digital skills as part of their daily life.



The Digital Divide

Digital Inclusion Programming

1. Affordable, robust broadband internet service
2. Devices that meet the needs of the user
3. Digital literacy training
4. Technical support
5. Applications and content designed to enable participation

- <https://www.digitalinclusion.org>

Trauma Informed Programming

- <https://socialwork.buffalo.edu/social-research/institutes-centers/institute-on-trauma-and-trauma-informed-care/>



People
Make
The
Difference



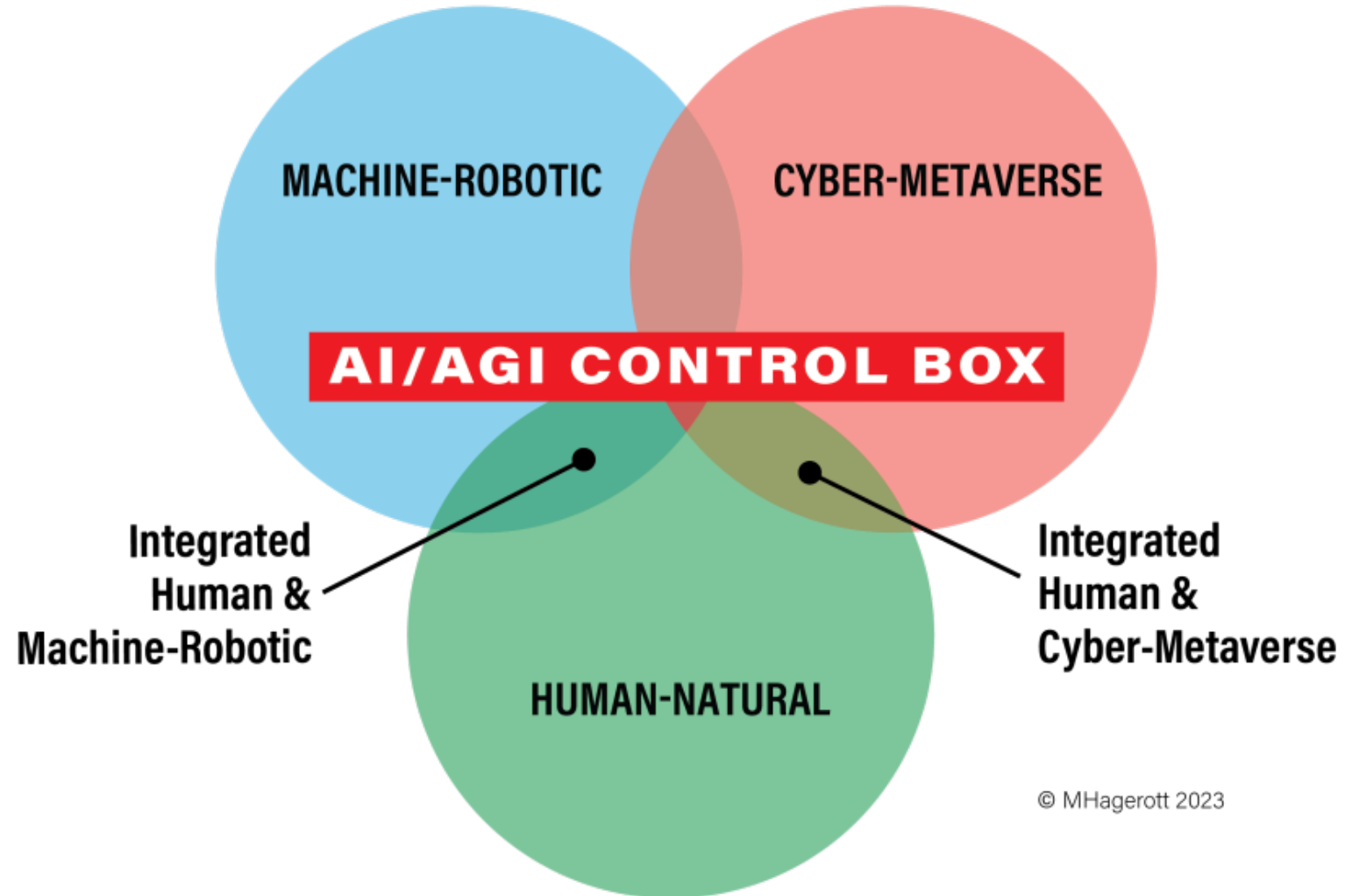
Q&A



Expanding Cybersecurity Learning and Workforce Opportunities for Rural Americans

Mark Hagerott, Chancellor
North Dakota University System

Visual Framework of our Digitizing World



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North Dakota University System & Tribal Colleges



CAE:
Cyber
Defense



CAE:
Research



Cybersecurity: Key for ND Digitization Efforts

BREADTH OF RURAL PROGRAMS

- Gen Ed for digital literacy
- Law, Medicine, Ag, Aviation, Nursing, Engineering, Military, Liberal Arts

THE WAY WE TEACH

- Rural distances require online courses & collaboration
- Exploring AI tutoring and learning

HOW OUR CAMPUSES OPERATE

- Access and protection of data
- Securing disparate system

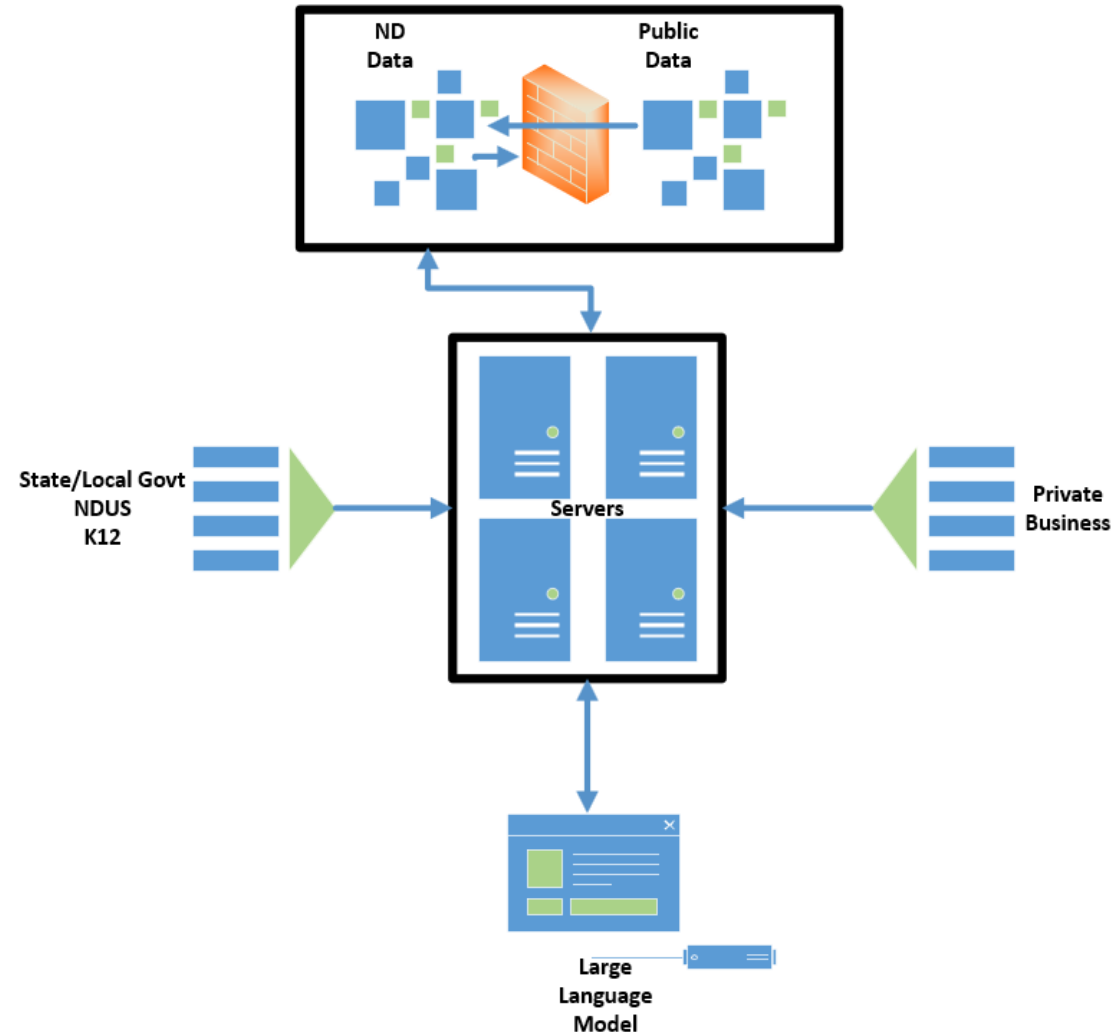
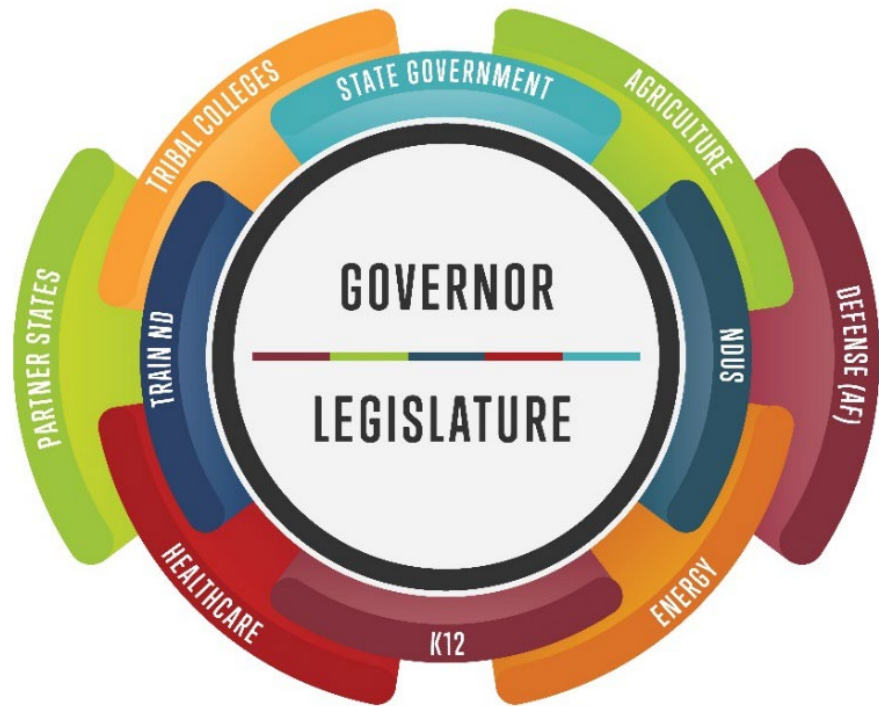
DEFENDING AGAINST SOCIAL ENGINEERING

- Critical thinking, synthesizing information
- The value of liberal arts and human resilience



Image created with MS Designer (AI)

Rural State Requires Whole of Government Approach



Questions??

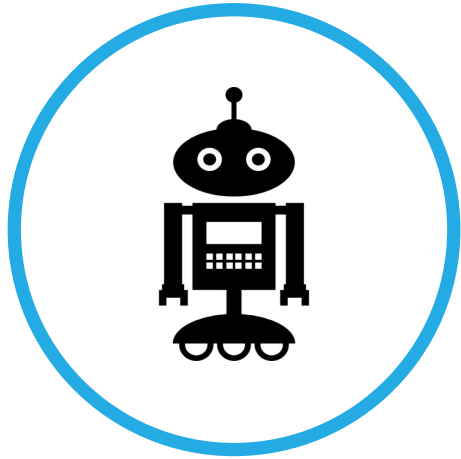


RURAL
technology fund

Dr. Chris Sanders

@ruraltechfund

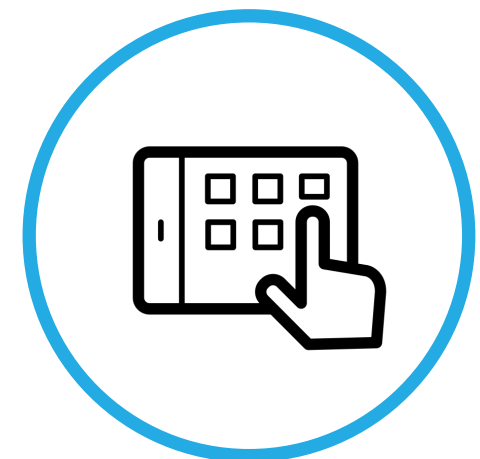




**Classroom Technology
Projects**



College Scholarships



**Assistive Technology
Support**

The mission of the RTF is to help rural students recognize opportunities in technology careers, facilitate pathways to work in the computer industry, and provide equitable access to technology for students with disabilities.



MAYFIELD, KY

Population: ~9500

Household Income: \$26,069 (US Average \$55,322)

Poverty Rate: 30.9% (US Average 14%)



ANHYDROUS AMMONIA



2



INHALATION HAZARD





RURAL TECH FUND (2008)

1
Student Impacted



RURAL TECH FUND (2010)

8

Students Impacted



RURAL TECH FUND (2012)

5,000

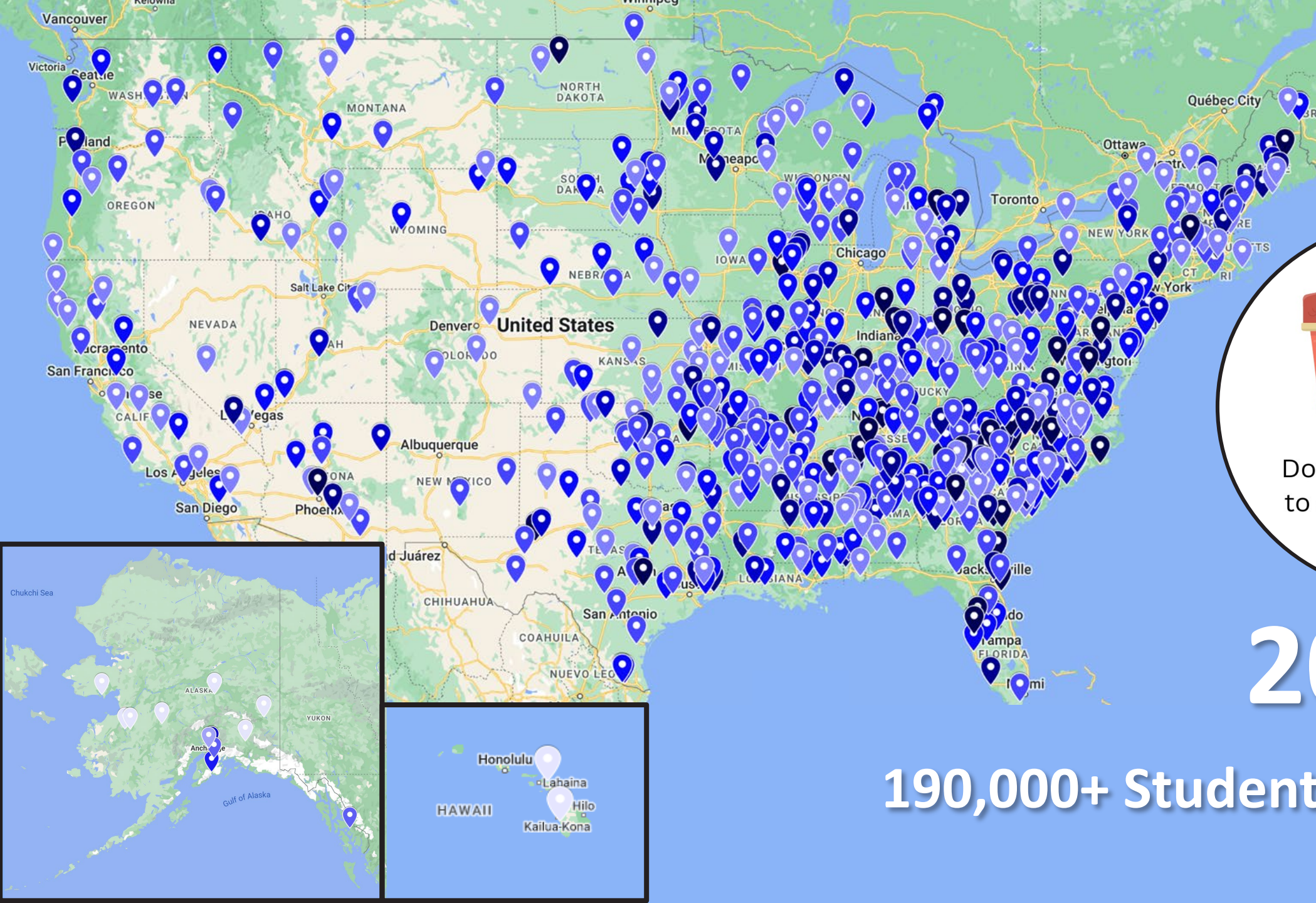
Students Impacted



RURAL TECH FUND (2018)

60,000+

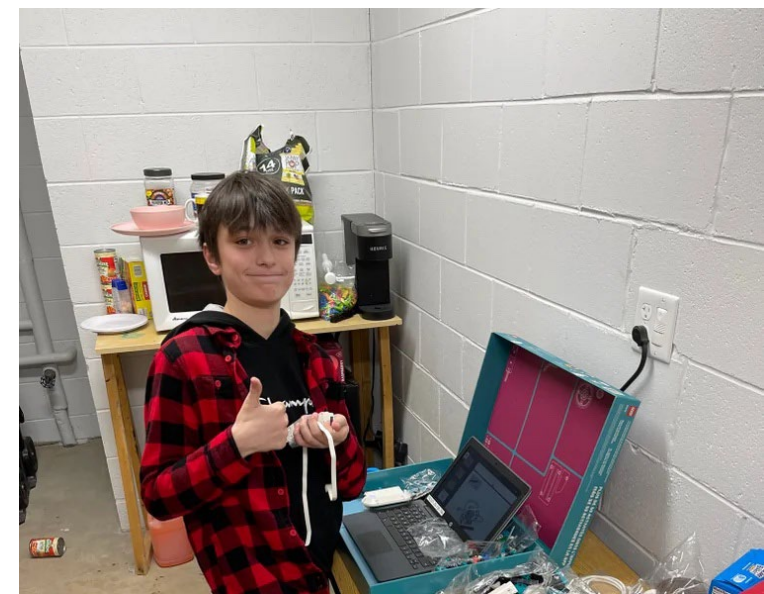
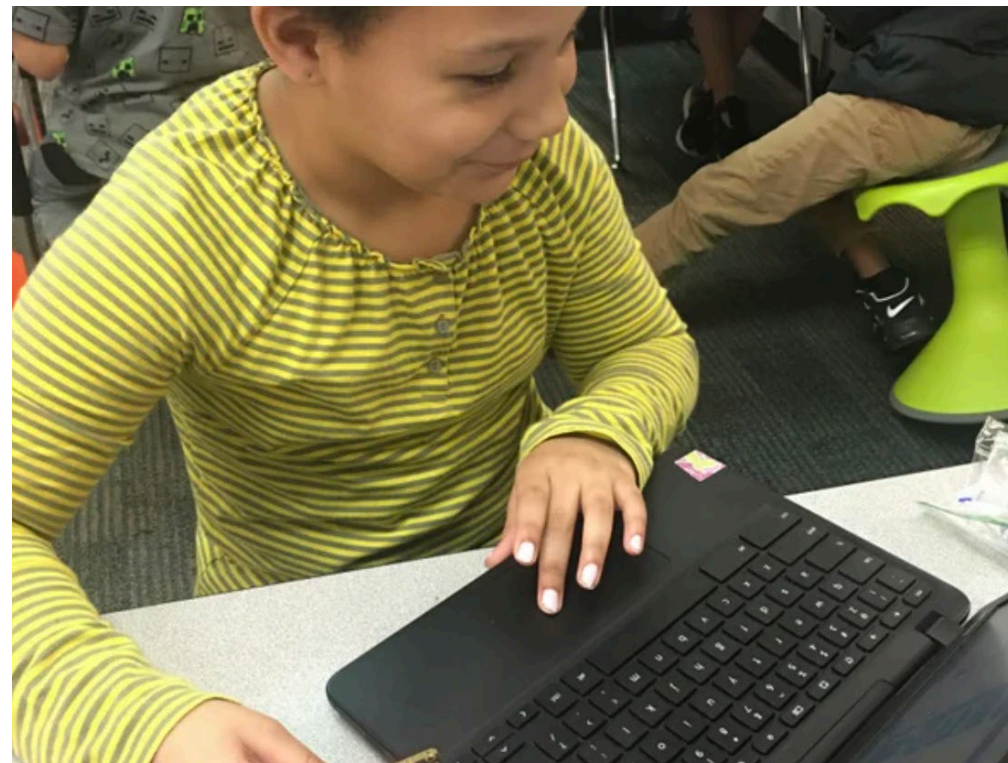
Students Impacted

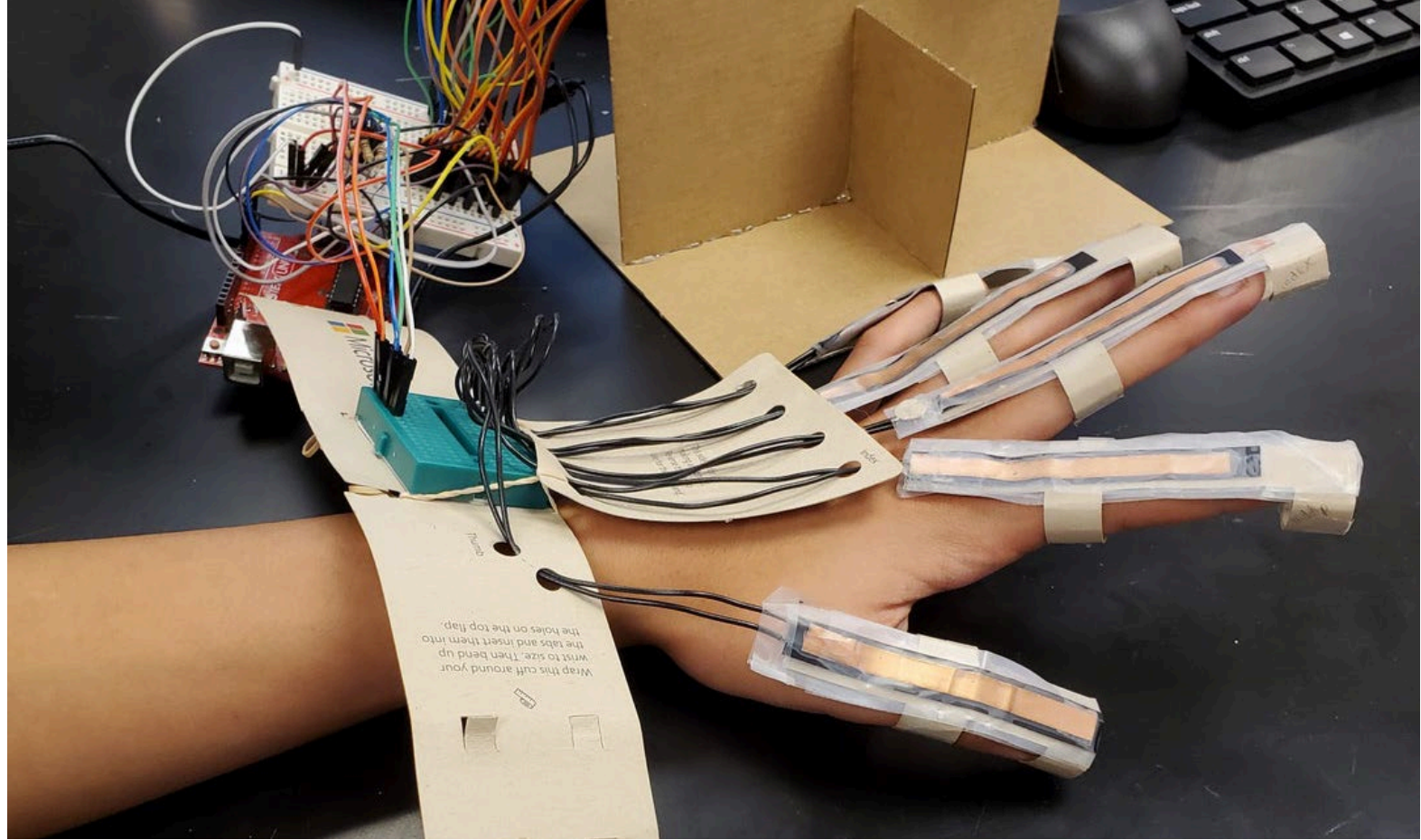


Donations have gone to over **800** schools in all **50** states

2024

190,000+ Students Impacted





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RURAL
technology fund

www.ruraltechfund.org

@ruraltechfund



Q&A

Panel Discussion



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<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Feb2024NICEWebinar>



NICE Webinar Series

Unlocking the Potential: Cybersecurity Careers for
the Neurodiverse

March 20, 2024, 2:00-3:00PM EST



NLST }  **NICE**