

Why Battle Creek, Michigan?

IT and Cyber Security

- One of the nation’s first unclassified Cyber Ranges, offering practical and controlled settings where attack scenarios and responses can be evaluated – while at the same time assisting in the development of an elite cyber workforce through targeted training and education programs. **1**
- The West Michigan Cyber Range curriculum offers certification on disciplines considered “best of breed” including multiple courses that fill the pipeline faster and feed into traditional university curriculum:
Engineer | Examiner | Auditor |
Security officer | Hacker **2**
- Students and IT professionals benefit from the challenging hands-on coursework, exercises and labs. Courses are aligned with the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education, ensuring the workforce meets national priorities and preparedness goals. **3**
- Five college and university programs designed by the National Security Agency as “National Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance” exist in Michigan, four of which are within an approximate 1.5-hour drive or less from Battle Creek. **4**
- A 2013 TechAmerica Foundation highlighted Michigan as having the second-highest tech growth in the nation. Michigan’s footprint today in high-tech automotive, manufacturing and defense industries provides West Michigan with a deep pool of engineering and IT talent prepared to develop the next generation of cybersecurity specialists. **5**
- Nearly every county in Michigan is represented in the cyber workforce attraction efforts by the Battle Creek Air National Guard. **6**
- Battle Creek thrives in the IT world with a community-wide fiber network delivering up to 10 Gigabytes through existing infrastructure – about 10 times the national norm. With 300 miles of a 1,000 mile Southwest Michigan network, 270 companies in Battle Creek connect to 1,641 different fiber-related services in the U.S. and around the world. **7**
- At W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek, residents and tenants are literally surrounded by fiber.

- 1 *Crain’s Detroit Business*, “Is Michigan prepared for a cyber attack?,” May 21, 2013.
- 2 Merit Cybersecurity Curriculum, Cybersecurity Certification Road Map, <http://www.merit.edu/cyberange/courses.php> June 2015
- 3 *Michigan Cyber Initiative 2015, Leading the Nation: An interagency, public-private collaboration*; www.michigan.gov/cybersecurity p.9.
- 4 *Crain’s Detroit Business*, “Is Michigan prepared for a cyber attack?,” May 21, 2013
- 5 *Michigan Cyber Initiative 2015, Leading the Nation: An interagency, public-private collaboration*, www.michigan.gov/cybersecurity p.12.
- 6 110th Communications Population, Air National Guard 110th Attack Wing, June 2015
- 7 Z96.5, “CTS Telecom Premier Kalamazoo, Portage and Battle Creek as Gigabit Cities for Business,” March 9, 2015.

