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Engaging Your SFS Students with the Federal Government



Outline

1. Know your students
2. What does your SFS student population look like?
3. Locality and geography
4. Field trips
5. Intelligence Community
6. Federally Funded Research & Development Centers
7. INSuRE & similar programs
8. Competitions
9. Guest Speakers
10. Conclusions

1. Know your students

- Know your students before you select them.
- Engage potential SFS selectees early into your SFS activities.
- Leverage your existing SFS students.
- Utilize your nearest chapter of FBI InfraGard



RCFL



Engaging Your SFS Students with the Federal Government



2. What does your SFS student population look like?

- Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral?
- Engineering, Business, Public Policy, Math?
- Where do your students intern at?
- Where do they want to work?
- Dual citizens? Permanent Residents?
- Foreign language fluency?
- Prior service, past or present security clearance?
- Interested in military service to fulfill obligation?



Official Website of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management

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CyberCorps: Scholarship for Service

MENU

Designed to
INCREASE AND STRENGTHEN

the cadre of federal information assurance professionals that protect the government's critical information infrastructure.

Students

Academia

Agencies



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Defending America's Cyberspace

Engaging Your SFS Students with the Federal Government

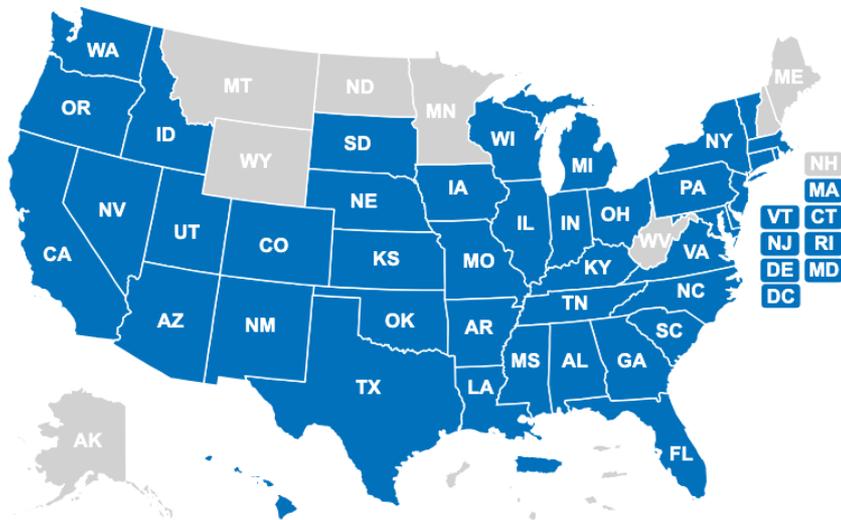


Hacking is actually NOT resume building



3. Locality and geography

- Many schools can leverage Federal agencies nearby or at least in the same state.
- Geographic location is very important for some students.



Engaging Your SFS Students with the Federal Government



4. Field trips



5. Intelligence Community

- **16th Air Force**
- **Army INSCOM**
- **CIA**
- **USCG Intelligence**
- **DEA**
- **DHS Intelligence & Analysis**
- **DIA**
- **DOE Intelligence & Counterintelligence**
- **FBI**
- **USMC Intelligence**
- **Naval Intelligence**
- **NGA**
- **NRO**
- **NSA**
- **ODNI**
- **State Dept. Intelligence & Research**
- **Treasury Intelligence and Analysis**
- **USSF**

IC Hiring Process is More Complex



6. Federally Funded Research & Development Centers

- NSF list 42 FFRDCs at:
<https://nces.nsf.gov/resource/master-gov-lists-ffrdc>



7. INSuRE & similar programs



- **Team teach an academic course with a government PM or scientist/engineer**
- **Offer an 8140-certification course on-site**
 - **Bring your SFS students**
 - **Offer SFS students a directed study credit**
- **Leverage a government rather than an industry entity for a capstone project**

8. Competitions



TAMU CtF



Mountain West
Cyber Challenge



Army Best Cyber
Warrior X



Roll Your Own
Competition 2026



NSA CodeBreaker



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9. Guest Speakers

- **Key Enablers:**
 - **Alumnus from your school**
 - **Serving or retired from the Civil Service**
 - **Your SFS Alums**
 - **Program managers you have worked with**
 - **Federal recruiters on campus**
 - **Hiring managers**



10. Conclusions

- “You usually get hired by someone you already know.”
 - USN SPAWAR “How to be a civilian school.”
- To maximize your student’s Federal engagement:
 - Make sure the students have solid resumes in USAJOBS.
 - Make sure the students have their OPM records up to date.
 - Make sure your students get to present or otherwise directly interact with the Civil Servants you are engaging with.



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