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<https://www.bizjournals.com/portland/news/2018/05/14/small-business-development-centers-team-with-cyber.html>

Small Business Development Centers team with Cyber Oregon on security training statewide

Technology Association of Oregon President and CEO Skip Newberry outlines how the association, education partners and security experts are bringing cybersecurity training to small business owners

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As part of the Cyber Oregon initiative to increase cybersecurity awareness and education throughout Oregon, the Technology Association of Oregon has been conducting cybersecurity training sessions across the state in partnership with the Oregon Small Business Development Center Network.

Given the ongoing phishing scams and cyberattacks that many companies have to deal with in one way or another, cybersecurity training tops the list of important programs to help businesses protect their valuable assets and data.

Recently, I chatted with Kedma Ough, innovation director for the Small Business Development Center at Mt. Hood Community College, and Lewis Howell, CEO of security firm Hueya, Inc., about the new statewide Cyber Oregon cybersecurity training programs.

“Cybersecurity risk is a universal problem,” Ough said. “The challenge that we constantly have to battle at the Small Business Development Centers is to ensure that we are giving the same level of support to the rural community as people would receive in Portland.”

With a specific emphasis on conducting cybersecurity training in rural communities, the Cyber Oregon team has trained small businesses in Astoria, Baker City, Klamath Falls, Pendleton, Tillamook and Seaside. Another cybersecurity training is scheduled for small businesses in Ontario in June.

As a part of the training, Howell. Whose firm helped design the program, said the lessons focus “sticking to the basics” while implementing and maintaining fundamental cybersecurity safeguards.

“Cyber professionals tend to overcomplicate things unnecessarily,” he said. “The concerns that we all have about ransomware and dealing with it with back-ups and disaster recovery are pretty simple concepts. But,



KEDMA OUGH

Kedma Ough, innovation director for the Small Business Development Center at Mt. Hood Community College

by training people to systematically implement these fundamental cybersecurity safeguards you have the potential to positively impact the greatest percentage of the population.”

The SBDC program found success using trained and certified cybersecurity students from the community college partnered with cybersecurity advisors. This way there is reach for the program, it is cost effective for small businesses and students get needed experience.

“The cybersecurity workshops were excellent. Our business owners left with a greater understanding of the very real cyber issues today and steps they can take to become less vulnerable,” said Carol Frink, director of Small Business Development Center at Mt. Hood Community College.

More information about cybersecurity training program and other Cyber Oregon activities [is available online](#).