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# The Cyber *perspective*

SUPPORTING COLLABORATION...  
INDUSTRY, ACADEMIA & GOVERNMENT

## Cyber Updates from the Desk of Craig Spohn



*Dear Friends,*

We were honored to have Governor Bobby Jindal here on September 14th to highlight the area's economic momentum and diversification,

job growth, and military achievements at Barksdale Air Force Base and Camp Minden. He was joined by Louisiana National Guard Commander Maj. Gen. Bennett Landreneau, Bossier Mayor Lo Walker, Bossier Police Jury President Rick Avery, Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover, and other local elected officials. Governor Jindal praised the expansion of the region's IT sector and singled out our newest tenants, Hitachi Data Systems (HDS) and Venyu, and our future tenant WaLa!, for their contribution to our area's knowledge-based workforce. In discussing the region's military assets, he said, "Our investment in Barksdale, Camp Minden, and the Cyber Innovation Center has helped to position northwest Louisiana as an epicenter of military strength while creating several hundred jobs for our people." Maj. Gen. Landreneau praised the construction of new facilities at Camp Minden, including the state-of-the-art Regional Training Institute, which he said will be a "center of excellence for military training."



I am also very happy to welcome HDS to the Cyber Innovation Center. The new office will be headed by Mike Vaughn, Global Remote Services manager of the HDS professional services team working from the CIC. Mike has extensive experience in leading teams focused on implementing new professional service initiatives for the benefit of HDS' clients. Prior to joining HDS, he held IT management positions that spanned application, systems, and network organizations. Mike and Louise White, HDS Federal Business Development, were our featured speakers at the September Member Luncheon.

In conjunction with the Air Force Global Strike Command's Technology and Innovation Symposium in November, Louisiana Tech University will host a cyber engineering workshop for professionals in the telecom-

munications, IT, HPC, digital media, cybersecurity, cyber forensics, information assurance, and related fields. It will also be of interest to those working in academia and economic development organizations. This workshop will be held on Monday, November 7th at the Shreveport Convention Center. Registration information will be available soon on our website under the Academic Outreach tab.

Please join us at our Member Luncheon on October 19th as we hear keynote speaker Andy Thomson. Andy recently retired as the Eighth Air Force's Chief of Staff and is now Senior Lead Executive for Northrop Grumman, another tenant in our building. Andy serves as Northrop Grumman's ambassador to Air Force Global Strike Command to facilitate business development and to ensure the highest degree of performance in service to global security. His talk is entitled, "Introducing Northrop Grumman: A Corporation Overview and Purpose in Northwest Louisiana."

Sincerely,

*Craig Spohn*



## Robotics Competition / Results

On September 17th, the first match of the Regional Autonomous Robotics Competition—a series of four competitions for students in grades 4-12 that build upon one another—was a great success. Sixty-four teams from elementary, middle, and high schools in Bossier, Caddo, Lincoln, Natchitoches, and Webster Parishes competed in the challenge held at the Bossier Parish Community College gymnasium. Enthusiastic parents and friends cheered on the teams as they participated in one-on-one sumo contests, which required teams to program an autonomous robot (no remote controls) to locate, attack, and push its opponent out of the sumo ring. Because teams were pitted against one another based on their robot platform, LEGO® NXT or boe-bot, elementary teams were able to flex their skills against middle and high schools students. Central Park Elementary's CPE Sparks team emerged as the first place winner in the elementary division, Cope Middle School Oppressors earned first place in the middle school division, and The Cyber Punks of Benton High School won first place in the high school division. We sincerely thank all of



the BPCCC faculty members who served as judges. For more pictures of the competition, please visit [www.cyberinnovationcenter.org/community/gallery](http://www.cyberinnovationcenter.org/community/gallery). We are grateful to parent volunteer Jim Noetzel for sharing his photos of the event! **Registration forms and fees for Competition II, held November 5th, are due at the CIC on October 19th.**

## Professional Development Workshop

This workshop will teach coaches the basics of implementing the NXT Robotics program. Participants are encouraged to bring their own robot kit and laptop; however, Sci-Port does have a limited number of kits and laptops available for use on a first-come, first-use basis. To register for the workshop, please contact Jason Ball at Sci-Port at 318-424-8660.

## AFCSC Symposium

Online registration for the November Symposium ends October 24th so register now for the early bird prices. Those who do not register online will have to wait until the event to register and must pay an additional \$25.

## Upcoming Events

**October 15**

Professional Development Workshop  
Sci-Port  
8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

**October 19**

CIC Member Luncheon  
Andy Thomson, Northrop Grumman  
11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

**November 5**

Regional Autonomous Robotics Circuit  
Competition II  
Bossier Civic Center  
7:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

**November 7**

Cyber Engineering Workshop  
Shreveport Convention Center

**November 7-9**

Air Force Global Strike Command  
Technology & Innovation Symposium  
Shreveport Convention Center

**November 9**

CIC Member Breakfast  
Shreveport Convention Center  
7:00 a.m. – 8:20 a.m.

Please contact JoAnn Marshall at 866-380-2746 or at [joann.marshall@cyberinnovationcenter.org](mailto:joann.marshall@cyberinnovationcenter.org) for more information about these events.