

Marymount University Receives \$1.9 Million NSF Cybersecurity Scholarship-for-Service Grant

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Marymount University a four-year, \$1.9 million grant through the Cybercorps: Scholarship for Service program to prepare professionals for government cybersecurity jobs.

The grant, which runs January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2017, will fund scholarships for Marymount undergraduate and graduate students who are earning degrees in information technology with a concentration in cybersecurity. Four comprehensive scholarships will be awarded each year; they will cover tuition, room and board, books, and travel and provide a stipend. Upon graduation, each scholarship recipient will fulfill a two-year work commitment in the cybersecurity field with a federal, state, or local government agency or a federally funded research and development company (FFRDC).

Over the past decade, Marymount has partnered with The George Washington University on NSF cybersecurity scholarship grants; this is the first such grant that Marymount has received directly.

For undergraduates, the scholarship would be for the final two years of their program. Marymount has many transfer students, especially from Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), and is working with the community college to encourage NVCC students to apply for these scholarships.

For both undergraduate and graduate scholarship candidates, Marymount is targeting underrepresented populations in the IT field, including women, veterans, and minority students.

Dr. Diane Murphy, chair of the University's Information Technology Department, is the principal investigator for the new scholarship project. She explains, "Protection of the nation's critical cyber infrastructure is increasingly vital to America's economic success and the quality of life of its citizens. Threats can come from many sources and, similarly, cybersecurity professionals should come from diverse cultures and backgrounds. Marymount has a proven record of recruiting and educating students from underrepresented populations and launching them successfully in the careers of their choice, including cybersecurity."

Applications for the Marymount scholarships to study cybersecurity will be available in mid-October for the spring 2013 semester, which begins January 14.