



**Commonwealth  
Cyber Initiative**  
COASTAL VIRGINIA

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# Coastal Virginia Center for Cyber Innovation (COVA CCI)

COVA CCI is southeastern Virginia's node of the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative. It is an engine for research, innovation, and commercialization of next-generation cybersecurity technologies particularly in the areas of **Cyber Physical Systems Security (CPSS), 5G, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Maritime, Defense, and Transportation business sectors.**

The Coastal Virginia Center for Cyber Innovation (COVA) seeks to:

- 1) conduct fundamental research leading to breakthroughs in CPS security (CPSS), contributing to the CCI mission of establishing Virginia as a global leader in secure CPS and in the digital economy,
- 2) foster and accelerate commercialization of CPSS innovation to grow and diversify the Virginia cyber economy,
- 3) expand and diversify the cybersecurity talent pipeline through investments in research capabilities and commercialization efforts, and
- 4) build a collaborative network within the region of educational institutions, business, and local, state, and federal agencies, and with the other CCI nodes

**COVA CCI Partnerships:** COVA CCI created a network of over 100 faculty and researchers representing Christopher Newport University, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, William & Mary, Eastern Shore Community College, Camp Community College, Tidewater Community College, Thomas Nelson Community College. COVA CCI is also partnering with over 20 private industry and government agencies including the US Navy, Huntington Ingalls Shipbuilding, CISCO, KBRWyle, Sentara Healthcare, G2Ops, 360IT, MI Technical Solutions to name a few.

**100+**  
Researchers

**22+**  
Business  
Partners

**8**  
Higher Education  
Institutions

## RESEARCH

COVA CCI supports cutting-edge research in the areas of Cyber Physical Systems Security (CPSS), 5G and beyond, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Maritime, Defense, and Transportation business sectors.

- Create a secure shared research environment for researchers and businesses to conduct cybersecurity research.
- Develop a 5G/Next G testbed to conduct research on the vulnerabilities and opportunities of current and future wireless communication technology.
- Sponsor cybersecurity research projects focused on maritime, defense and transportation business sectors.
- Hire a cluster of cybersecurity researchers at Old Dominion University and William & Mary who support the development of cybersecurity research and external funding opportunities at these institutions.
- Collaborate with researchers from the other CCI institutions on joint cybersecurity research projects.

## IMPACTS

**Over \$5  
Million**

**External  
Grants**

**Over \$1  
Million**

**Research  
Projects**

### About Commonwealth Cyber Initiative

Funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia, CCI is a highly connected statewide network that engages institutions of higher education, industry, government, and nongovernmental and economic development organizations. It was established in the 2018-20 Virginia budget, which will invest approximately \$20 million annually from 2020 and beyond. For more about CCI visit [www.cyberinitiative.org](http://www.cyberinitiative.org).

# INNOVATION/COMMERCIALIZATION

COVA CCI is supporting innovation and commercialization of research to grow and diversify the Virginia cyber economy.

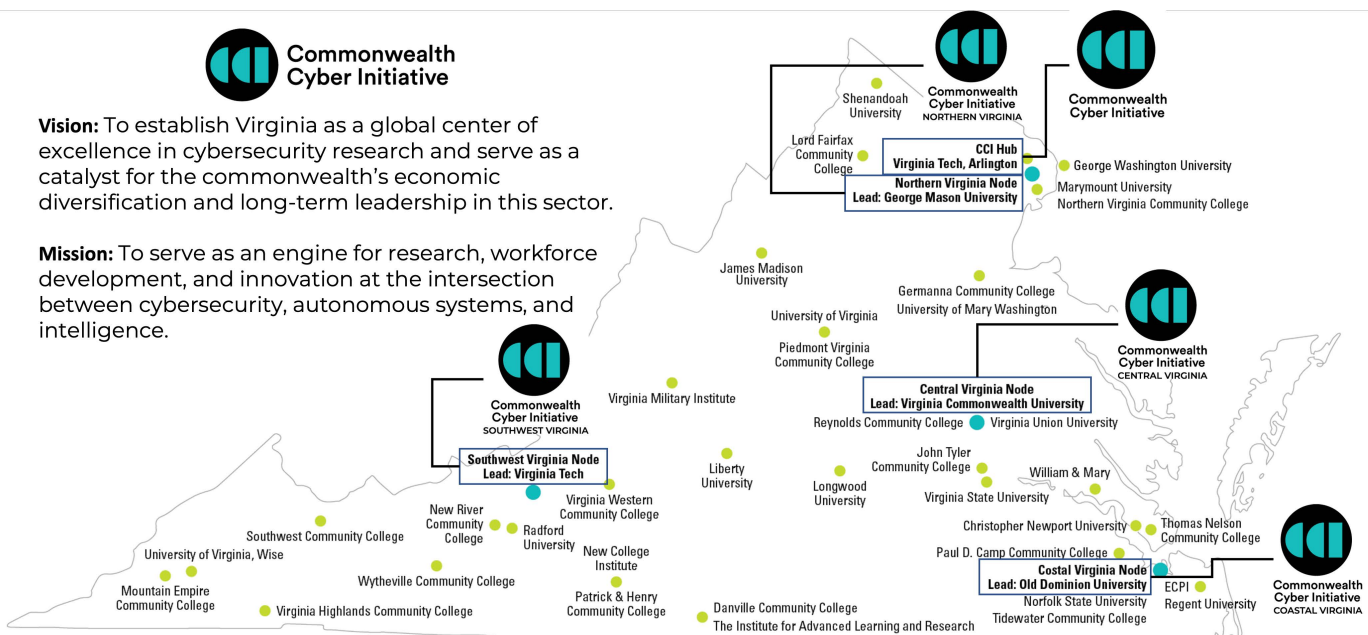
- Connect researchers and businesses in developing joint grant proposals in support of federal, state, local, and/or private funding opportunities.
- Provide funds to research teams to assist in converting research into viable business opportunities utilizing entrepreneurial centers, business incubators, and innovation programs.
- Assist in commercialization of new technology by educating researchers about technology transfers and intellectual property.

# TALENT DEVELOPMENT

COVA CCI works with institutions of higher learning and business partners from across the region to create experiential learning opportunities for students at all levels.

**Student Focused Programs**  
Undergraduate Research  
Experiential Learning  
Innovate Cyber  
Internships

- Enhance the knowledge and skills of students through the alignment of existing curricula and creation of new curricula that meets industry's needs creating a pathway between education and jobs.
- Develop experiential learning opportunities for graduate students to work with industry partners on real-world projects and with community colleges on enhancing cybersecurity knowledge and abilities.
- Expand student opportunities for internships with cybersecurity firms to prepare students for a career in cybersecurity.
- Create research opportunities for undergraduate students to explore cybersecurity related topics.
- Develop team building, problem-solving and research skills through the INNOVATE Cyber Challenge where teams of students from multiple institutions work on a unique cybersecurity challenge using the design-thinking approach.



## CCI VIRGINIA NETWORK

COVA CCI Website  
[www.covacci.org](http://www.covacci.org)



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