



September 4, 2013

Dear All,

I'm happy to announce the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has partnered with Cyber Aces on an exciting statewide program to identify and develop talent in cybersecurity. I'm hosting the first Governor's Cyber Aces State Championship in Massachusetts and I hope you will consider supporting our efforts by encouraging jobseekers to register for this free competition.

Our country faces increasing threats in cyberspace and there are critical shortages of skilled cybersecurity professionals to address them. Quality, high-paying jobs are going unfilled. Cybersecurity represents both a challenge and an opportunity for our Commonwealth and our nation. It's an issue with tremendous national security implications and a field with unmet demand for the jobs of the 21st century economy. The Department of Homeland Security Task Force Report from fall 2012 stated, "The cyber threat facing the nation has escalated sharply and come into clear focus." Cybersecurity jobs will be one of the highest paying occupations in the Information Technology (IT) industry and cybersecurity talent is needed in the public and private sectors. Demand for IT professionals is the second fastest growing field according to a recent Cisco analysis. Additionally, this demand is projected at 10,000 for elite cyber technicians and 55,000 for operators and administrators nationwide.

The Governor's Cyber Aces State Championship will address this critical skills gap. High school students and jobseekers in career transition from across the state will come together, compete to win top honors, and best performers may earn scholarships for elite training.

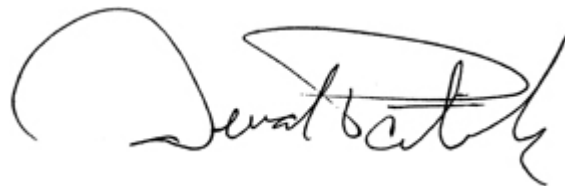
We are exploring the opportunity to create a Cyber Academy in Massachusetts to certify those high school and college students, veterans/members of the armed services, and jobseekers with the highest potential and aptitude for residency training and job placement.

The Governor's Cyber Aces State Championship has an online competition, with tutorials and quizzes, and a final event with head-to-head Net Wars competition. Net Wars will be held in May 2014. We are inviting jobseekers and those in career transition to register for the online training and competition. This free registration opens September 3rd at www.cyberaces.org.

As your Governor, and as a Co-Chair of the Military Asset and Security Strategy Task Force I am proud to be part of our collective efforts in Massachusetts to recruit, train and employ the best talent in cybersecurity. By partnering with Cyber Aces we are providing job seekers an opportunity to test their mettle and explore a career with the cybersecurity workforce. I hope you will encourage those with aptitude and interest to register for this training and competition.

I look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "P".