Community Statement

Nickolaus S. Grant

University of Advancing Technology

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Dapzury Valenzuela

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Community Statement

My name is Nickolaus Grant, and I am a network security student living in rural Ohio. From the time I spent in school in Arizona to my return to a smaller community, I have found unique opportunities to connect with and support local communities. Living in a region where technical expertise is often scarce, I have come to understand the importance of contributing my skills to support small businesses around me. For me, network security is not just a pathway for personal career development, it is a way to empower the community around me.

Currently, I am interning at a local business that operates using crypto mining machines which has allowed engaging in a hands-on technical role. My job mainly involves flashing software onto these machines, ensuring they operate efficiently and securely before being shipped off to the customer. This one simple task seems straightforward but it is needed for business productivity. When you enter the world of crypto mining it is a race against resource-intensive and demands meticulous maintenance, and the role given to me allows me to apply and deepen my knowledge while giving support to a local business.

When taking a deeper look at my role I tend to extend on focusing on security awareness and digital literacy within the community. The place I am living often faces challenges as they are such a limited demand for skilled IT professionals and a lack of simple cyber threats. I want to address these issues by offering consultations for businesses and even holding workshops to give back to the community this knowledge that helps foster the local economy.

Going forward and beyond my internship, I want to expand my engagement with more professional network security communities. This includes organizations like the Information Systems Security Association (ISSA) and participate in forums with open discussion reaching out to these rural areas in our world. These platforms can give us further insight and resources that channel back into our local communities ensuring our communities are getting the chance to climb to the top.

To ensure my potential as a professional network security expert, I plan on furthering my education by earning certifications within the industry. These certifications include the CompTIA Certs. of Security+, Network+, Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA), and Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) certifications. These certifications can allow me to serve as a resource of knowledge for my communities, by offering a specialized skill set to those who don’t a thing about the future of the technology.

In conclusion, my journey in network security is about achieving personal goals to contribute to the well-being of my communities. I will accomplish this by addressing the technological challenges faced by our local business. I want to create a foundation for beginner-level individuals and have a connection to the professional experts within these organizations like the ISSA. My journey started my internship by flashing software to a small crypto miner for a small business in my town. These goals of mine are going to be a long-term commitment to leverage the new future technology to communities all around the world.