

## **Closing the Gap: The Need for Women and Minorities in Cybersecurity**

**By LeClair, Jane**

Those with a vested interest in cybersecurity are well aware of the many challenges that are faced by those working in the cyber arena. One of the more difficult challenges is finding, in adequate numbers, well trained and educated personnel to fill the many open positions that currently exist in the field. Compounding the issue of vacancies is the paucity of women and minorities in the STEM and cybersecurity field. This presentation will provide an overview of the current status of cybersecurity, the expanding need for cyber warriors, and the role that women and minorities can and should be playing in the field.

### **Biography**

Dr. Jane LeClair is the Chief Operating Officer for the National Cybersecurity Institute (NCI) at Excelsior College, whose mission is to serve as an academic and research center dedicated to increasing the knowledge of the cyber security discipline. Dr. LeClair previously served as Dean of the School of Business and Technology at Excelsior College.

Before joining Excelsior College, Dr. LeClair worked in education and the commercial nuclear power industry. She taught at various universities and in 2015 published Volume II of *Protecting Our Future: Educating a Cybersecurity Workforce* and *Cybersecurity in Our Digital Lives*.

Dr. LeClair is an advocate for attracting and retaining more women in cybersecurity and welcomes contributions to the LeClair Scholarship for Women in Technology. As a thought leader she regularly speaks with the media and has testified before the House Committee on Small Business on Cybersecurity in Small Business. Dr. LeClair holds an MS in Cybersecurity.