Renewed Recognition for Academic Excellence in Cyber Security

The National Security Agency (NSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are once again recognizing Northeastern University for its strength in cybersecurity. After the government agencies adopted new and more rigorous criteria for selection, Northeastern was awarded a seven-year designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance (IA)/Cyber Defense (CD), valid through 2021.

The University first gained the designation for its educational programs in 2008, the same year it was named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Research. In 2012, Northeastern received an additional designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations.

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Professor Contributes to Science and Health through Data

A section of tissue on a glass slide holds biological matter. It also contains something else that matters to Associate Professor Olga Vitk: data, up to five gigabytes on a single slide.

Trained in statistics, the new Northeastern University faculty member with a joint appointment in the College of Computer and Information Science (CCIS) and the College of Science focuses on computational biology and statistical bioinformatics. Her wide-ranging research areas include mass spectrometry, particularly proteomics, or the analysis of structure and function of proteins. She is also interested in integrating and interpreting other large-scale genomic, metabolomics, and ionomic datasets to study complex biological systems. Vitk's research has earned her a National Science Foundation CAREER Award and recognition as a University Faculty Scholar at Purdue University, where she led the Laboratory for Statistical Proteomics and Biostatistics before coming to Northeastern.

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Teaching High School Students to Program

Becca MacKenzie and Julia Ebert love to program. But they also remember how it felt to be new to coding. That's why the Northeastern University undergraduates volunteered this fall to teach a class introducing high school students to programming.

"I've been a beginning programmer and know it can be terrifying and hard. But I fell in love with programming and want other people to fall in love with it," says MacKenzie, a College of Computer and Information Science junior.

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Northeastern University
CCIS
360 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
617.373.2462
www.ccs.neu.edu

For more information, please contact Doreen Hodgkin at d.hodgkin@neu.edu. Thank you.