

**Minutes of the PC4A Meeting**  
**Held Virtually on April 20, 2026 at 3:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Hauwa Abbas, Michael Caglia, Waleed Farag, Sherri Mack, Greg Paonessa, Donna Reed, Christie Sever, Lydia Taylor, Barb Zaborowski

**Meeting Information**

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2026 meeting was made by Greg Paonessa and seconded by Donna Reed. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Partners were thanked for submitting their quarterly reports. Invoices were submitted to the RI and are being processed for reimbursement.
3. An update was provided on the Security Clearance Webinar. The second webinar had stronger student participation than the first session, and students asked questions. The webinar was intended to help students better understand the security clearance process and reduce uncertainty around the steps involved.
4. Discussion was held regarding transfer scholarships for students transferring to IUP for cybersecurity. The project team is preparing to reopen the scholarship application for Fall 2026. The scholarship will provide tuition support for one semester, with possible renewal depending on available funding and the status of the project extension. Partners were asked to share the application with interested students as soon as possible before the end of the semester.
  - a. Clarification was provided that the scholarship is primarily intended for students transferring into cybersecurity. Students interested in other computer science tracks may be considered as exceptions, but the focus should remain cybersecurity as it aligns with the grant.
5. An update was provided on the second annual PC4A Capture the Flag (CTF) event. Seven teams registered, with five teams participating, for a total of 15 students. Participation was lower than the previous year. The top three teams were recognized, and an individual Penn Highlands student who received the highest individual points will also receive a first-place-level prize. Penn Highlands may coordinate with its media department to photograph the award presentation.
6. Discussion was held regarding whether to offer another CTF or hackathon over the summer. Partners noted that summer participation may be difficult because many students are not on campus or are transient summer students. Staff will develop and distribute an interest survey to partners before deciding whether to move forward with a summer event. Future CTF registration may also collect more information about student skill level so challenges can be better matched to participants.
7. An update was provided on the student survey. The survey has closed, and responses will be analyzed and shared with partners soon.
8. Partners were reminded that the project team will be very busy through the end of the month due to quarterly reporting, scholarship application materials, the potential CTF interest survey, and CAE-related activities.

9. Partners provided the following updates:
- a. **WCCC:** Continued progress toward opening a Pearson VUE testing center. Setup has taken longer than expected as IT needed to adjust server and testing-station configurations after receiving official Pearson VUE requirements. WCCC hopes to complete internal testing by the end of April and officially open in May. Several summer camps are scheduled from June through August, primarily for high school students, with some possible middle school participation. WCCC is also considering a Network+ workshop after finals. In the recent self-paced A+ preparation effort, five students signed up, four completed the voucher-qualifying test, and all four earned Core 1 vouchers. WCCC also participated in BotsIQ at PennWest California, using a prize wheel, 3D printer, and Raspberry Pi 5 raffle to attract students and share program information. Photos from the event will be shared for possible social media promotion.
  - b. **PHCC:** Developed additional outreach materials, including a cybersecurity-themed Guess Who activity for an upcoming Career Discovery Day with approximately 70 local high school students. PHCC has updated cybersecurity courses and is submitting changes to the Applied Technology computer science track, including five new courses. PHCC is planning an after-graduation Network+ and Security+ workshop and may offer another workshop near the end of summer depending on student and alumni interest. Current certification attainment is still pending, with approximately six students expected to test when ready. A future capstone course will include the certification exam as a course requirement. PHCC is also beginning its summer internship process. BSides will be held at Penn Highlands on Thursday, November 12, 2026.
  - c. **MCCC:** A+ and Security+ workshops are scheduled for the end of the semester/beginning of May. Virtual participation may be permitted, but students must still pass the practice exam to receive a voucher. MCCC recently held its CTF event with eight participating teams, including a team from the math department. Continued exposure and student testimonials may help build participation over time. MCCC is also preparing for the NICE Conference in June and is exploring a small networking event with local businesses focused on internships and apprenticeships. MCCC has approximately two summer interns lined up and hopes to identify more. Donna also shared information about Virginia's Commonwealth Cyber Initiative as a possible model for cybersecurity internships, apprenticeships, and statewide collaboration.
  - d. **BC3:** Held its cybersecurity conference on April 8 with 86 attendees, 10 more than the previous year. The theme was AI and cybersecurity, with speakers addressing AI-related security and privacy issues across areas such as manufacturing, autonomous vehicles, robotics, healthcare, patient records, and secure programming. BC3 is considering moving the conference to October to align with Cybersecurity Awareness Month and may offer virtual options for some sessions. A Security+ camp is expected to begin in May, with two current

students, one alum/outside participant, and possibly two additional participants. BC3 may coordinate with MCCC if a virtual option is needed. Marketing for future offerings will likely increase in mid-summer or early August.

10. The next partner meeting will be held on May 18, 2026 at 3:30 PM EST.

11. With no further business, the meeting concluded at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Taylor and Dr. Waleed Farag.