

CIS Advisory Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agency/Company</b>	<b>Type</b>
Matt Murrish	Current: Director of Customer Success and Marketing/Former IT	Valeo Networks (formerly NMS)	Business
Miranda Friel	Lead Network Administrator/Former Network Administrator/Head of Security	Currently: HCOE, former: Redwood Capital Bank	Business
Aaron McVanner	Independent IT Consultant/Former IT Manager	Currently: Independent Consultant, former: Kokatat, Inc.	Business
Moshin Aziz	President	Nylex.net, Inc.	Business
Robert Pollard	Director of IT	Blue Lake Rancheria	Business
Eddy Noggle	IT Manager	City of Eureka	Business
Derek Howard	Senior IT Analyst	City of Eureka	Business
Chris Byers	Independent IT Consultant/Network Administrator	Redwood IT Consulting/Holly Yashi	Business
Robert Max Rees, II	Senior Software Engineering Manager	Ferguson, LLC	Business
Jeremy Kolko	System Administrator	Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.	Business
<b>Amy Murphy</b>	<b>Assistant Professor</b>	<b>College of the Redwoods</b>	<b>Education</b>
<b>Trevor Hartman</b>	<b>Assistant Professor</b>	<b>College of the Redwoods</b>	<b>Education</b>

**CIS – Advisory Board 2023Spr Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting Format:**  
**Newsletter Email & Request for Feedback - Online Survey**

**Newsletter and Survey Sent to Current list of Committee Members:**

- Miranda Friel (*HCOE*)
- Matt Murrish (*Valeo Networks*)
- Aaron McVanner (*Independent IT Consultant/formerly Kokotat*)
- Moshin Aziz (*Nylex*)
- Robert Pollard (*Blue Lake Rancheria*)
- Eddie Noggle (*City of Eureka*)
- Derek Howard (*City of Eureka*)
- Chris Byers (*Redwood IT Consulting/Holly Yashi*)
- Robert Max Rees II (*Ferguson, LLC*)
- Jeremy Kolko (*Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.*)

**Newsletter Author:** Amy Murphy, Trevor Hartman

**Survey Author:** Amy Murphy

**New Committee Members/Updates:**

**Updates:**

Miranda Friel (*left RCB and became the new lead Network Administrator for HCOE*)

**New Members:**

Chris Byers (*Redwood IT Consulting/Holly Yashi Network Administrator*)

Robert Max Rees II (*Senior Software Engineering Manager, Ferguson, LLC*)

Jeremy Kolko (*System Administrator, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.*)

**Request/Input email to Advisory Members:**

**2022/2023 Updates:**

- Trevor Hartman (successful/accomplished programmer) was hired to take Chris Romero's place upon his retirement in Spring 2023.
- Based on feedback from last year's Advisory Committee Survey requesting a stronger emphasis on cloud administration, our Fall CIS31 Systems and Network Administration course curriculum has been modified to include an equal focus on both Microsoft Server and Microsoft Azure Administration.

**Annual Successes/Highlights:**

- Over the last year, CIS faculty facilitated the hiring of CIS students into technical support positions and/or internships at the following local businesses: County of Humboldt, Open Door Community Health Center, Access Humboldt, Holly Yoshi, and Danco
- Trevor Hartman, in collaboration with Matt Cendejas (BUS), applied for and won a CR Presidential Innovation Fund grant, which is being used to start an e-Commerce-focused Entrepreneur Club on the CR campus. The club has plans to launch a student-led online store in the upcoming months.
- Through generous sponsorships, Amy Murphy's CIS cybersecurity students have been able to continue participation in NCL (National Cyber League) competitions, as well as the California Far North Cyber Mayor's Cup.
  - These capture-the-flag (CTF) competitions increase students' exposure to real-world cybersecurity challenges and allow them opportunities to develop and hone skills that are highly desirable to potential employers. A CIS37 student's recent sentiment sums up the high value of these competitions:

*"These past two semesters, I have really seen the NCL competition as a powerful supplement to our course material. It brings the concepts and tools we've learned out of the book and labs and closer to a real-world scenario where we have to think on our feet and apply our knowledge. I would say that participating in the NCL has had a major impact on my educational and career goals."*

- **Notable 2023 CTF Stats:**
  - **NCL Competitions:** Based on NCL Individual and Team Game scores, **College of the Redwoods** is currently ranked **24<sup>th</sup> nationally** in the **NCL's Cyber Power Rankings** out of 451 participating colleges and universities. Our CIS competitive team placed 25<sup>th</sup> on the NCL's National Top 100 Leaderboard out of 3593 teams.
  - **CA Cyber Mayor's Cup:** 2 CIS teams took home the Far North Colleges - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> overall out of 33 teams.
- The CIS Dept. continues its work strengthening CIS pathways to Cal Poly Humboldt, focusing current efforts on pathways to the two new degrees the University is currently rolling out this Fall 2023:
  - B.S. in Software Engineering
  - B.S. in Data Analytics
- The Dept. currently has 3 exceptional CIS students on transfer pathways to Cal Poly Humboldt's new programs, with several more on the horizon for next year and looks forward to helping meet the programming and software engineering needs of the greater Humboldt community and Far North region.

- Trevor Hartman has successfully finished his first year of teaching and he has greatly increased the relevance of current CIS programming offerings. CIS Dept. faculty are very excited about the CIS program's potential for expansion and new pathways to Cal Poly Humboldt. Student interest in the CIS program has always been strong, but there is definitely a fresh new energy among CIS faculty and students.

**Included meeting format update message to Advisory members:**

- CR's Career Ed disciplines are required to survey our local employers' needs to ensure we're capturing and meeting them through our courses and curriculum. Our CIS Advisory Committee generally meets at a local restaurant over lunch (our treat), just once or twice an academic year (if the selected day fits in your schedule). We do plan to return to in-person lunches in the upcoming academic year, but for 2021/2022, we're just sending out a brief CIS Program Newsletter and short 4-question survey for members to fill out and submit online (via Survey Monkey).

**Attachment Sent:**

- Attached updated complete list of CIS Program Offerings and Course Descriptions for Advisory Committee Review

**Survey for Advisory Committee:**

**College of the Redwoods - CIS Advisory Committee Survey**

**Survey Purpose:**

**Advisory Board input and feedback help inform CIS curriculum adjustments and the development of new CIS courses and programs that reflect the needs of our local IT industry and employers.**

**CIS Dept. fulltime faculty are polling our CIS Advisory Board to see if any of our members have input, recommendations, and/or feedback concerning new or upcoming changes/trends in local industry that we should be aware of.**

**We'd also like to verify our courses and program are continuing to meet the needs of local employers through our current longstanding CIS offerings in the following areas:**

- **Network Infrastructure and Domain Administration** (CIS30, CIS31, & CIS33)
- **Programming** (CIS12 & CIS18)
- **Cybersecurity** (CIS35 & CIS37)
- **Database** (CIS50)
- **PC Repair and Maintenance** (CIS98)
- **Intro to CIS and Business** (CIS1 & BUS10)

**Thank you for taking a few moments to thoughtfully complete the short 5-question survey that follows below. Your responses are VERY helpful and greatly appreciated!! 😊**

**Survey Questions:**

**1) Do you believe our CIS Program is successfully responding to local industry needs with our current course offerings in the areas listed above?**

**Responses (4):**

- *I do.*
- *Absolutely*
- *Nearly. There's a gap in frontend engineering. Modern client-side codebases often follow functional/object-functional patterns, and frontend engineers need to know things/concepts like GraphQL, TypeScript, HTML, CSS, SSR, REST, code-splitting, PWAs, etc. Candidates with solid foundational understanding surrounding frontend engineering principles and tools are just as valuable as those with backend experience. I also don't see anything for source control - knowing how to use an SCM (like Git) is a basic, but key, skill that all engineers use. Same goes for task management/tracking software (Pivotal, Jira).*
- *Yes I would like to survey a few classes some time to provide additional input.*

**2) Do you have any current or upcoming industry needs that our CIS Program is currently not addressing? If so, please elaborate.**

**Responses (4):**

- *No.*
- *No. An ever-increasing need for cybersecurity knowledge.*
- *As mentioned above - frontend engineering. Historically this would have been an afterthought, but any organizations are much more structured in their frontend code than they once were.*
- *PLC programming is a popular area of topic for breweries and other manufacturers. This may be a specialized area for CIS to consider.*

**3) Do you have any interest or see added value in students obtaining a CIS programming certificate/degree before entering the local workforce? Additionally, do you have any specific need(s) for programming support at your business?**

**Responses (4):**

- *I see students obtaining a programming cert/degree as a bonus but not as relevant as networking and server administration. I don't have programming support needs at the moment.*
- *Yes. I think the skills learned from the programming courses give students a better understanding of programs and troubleshooting even if they are not actively programming.*
- *I don't see much value in certificates/degrees over alternatives. I see them as signals that suggest that person's knowledge of core concepts and potential, and can help me decide whether or not to interview them. Their core knowledge and skillset is what will drive the decision to hire.*

- *I see the value for learning how to debug and troubleshoot. Most people aren't going to write new code but fix existing or add to existing which would be beneficial to learn. I am not aware of additional support needed at this time at our site.*

**4) Are we doing anything within our CIS Program that you'd suggest we stop doing? If so, please elaborate.**

**Responses (4):**

- *No.*
- *No*
- *Nothing stands out.*
- *Without knowing all of the details I can't comment on this.*

**5) Do you have any additional thoughts or comments you'd like to add that are not already addressed in the questions above? Do you have any new developments you'd like to share with our CIS Faculty?**

**Responses (4):**

- *I feel as though the knowledge I obtained while at CR adequately prepared me for the local workforce.*
- *Cybersecurity is something all businesses are concerned with, but seem to have trouble getting started and following through with due to the number of frameworks there are to choose from.*
- *It's encouraging to see active outreach and a desire to shape your program around industry needs. I'm looking forward to seeing where this collaboration goes!*
- *None.*

**Respondents in order:** *Chris Byers, Miranda Friel, Robert Max Rees II, Jeremy Kolko*

**Next Meeting:** TBA