



# CHOOSE COLUMBUS GEORGIA



## For INFORMATION SECURITY

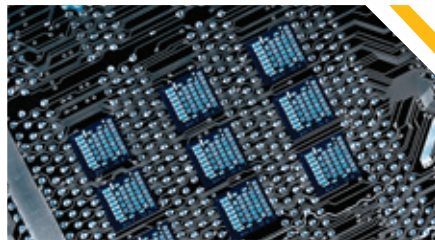
**W**ith 70% of all U.S. financial transactions processed through Georgia-based systems, the importance of information security cannot be overstated. Georgia leads the nation in the Information Security industry, with research, talent and a number of data centers. Georgia is now home to more than 115 information security companies, which generate more than 25% of the worldwide security revenue market.

### GOOD TO KNOW:

Credit card payment processor **TSYS** has gifted \$5 million to Columbus State University for an endowment to establish a scholarship for cyber security students.

### WHY THE COLUMBUS REGION FOR INFORMATION SECURITY?

Columbus State University is designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence for Cyber Defense.



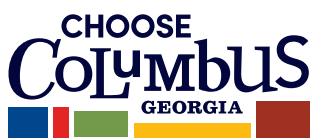
The privacy and security of health data is also of great importance, particularly in the Columbus Region, home to both Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia and Aflac insurance companies. The Columbus Region's Fortune 500 companies have substantial information security divisions to protect customer data.

## Workforce & Training

Current employment in critical cybersecurity sectors make up approximately 35% of Georgia's employment. Nearly 3,000 workers in the Columbus Region are employed in computer and mathematical occupations, including information security, earning an average annual wage of more than \$70,000. Columbus Region data companies find military veterans from Fort Benning to be one pipeline of information security employees as they already have the core instincts to protect sensitive information.

To fill the growing demand in the information or cyber security field, the University System of Georgia has seven institutions – including Columbus State University – that are designated as National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense. Columbus State University has the Center for Cyber Defense Education, which was created in cooperation with TSYS, a global payment service provider based in Columbus, and offers a Master's of Science in Applied Computer Science with a concentration in Cyber Defense. The Computer Science Department of Columbus State University has been offering the Cyber Defense track of the Masters of Science in Applied Computer Science since August 2003.

The Technical College System of Georgia offers Strategic Industries Workforce Development Grants (SIWDG) to cover the full cost of tuition for those seeking diplomas and certificates in high demand industry clusters, including 102 programs related to Information Technology and 88 related to Defense. Additionally, the Technical College System of Georgia is committed to bringing the nation's top economic development workforce training program, Georgia Quick Start, to the table to work with qualified employers as they grow cyber-related jobs in Georgia.



We do amazing.

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