

Cyber Defense Club

K-State's Cyber Defense Club has earned top-tier recognition from Argonne National Laboratory. Six club members tied for second place at the laboratory's second Cyber Defense Competition April 1, 2017 in Lemont, Illinois. The competition included 15 teams from colleges and universities across the country.

"I'm very proud of our team," said Richard Petrie, president of the Cyber Defense Club. "I am especially proud that we maintained a positive attitude, even when things started to go wrong. Our team fixed any problems, patted each other on the back and kept working. Mistakes are a part of competition. You fix them, learn from them, and keep working to accomplish the task."

The competition included a staged real-life scenario. Collegiate teams — called blue teams — had three weeks to create and design a cyberdefense network for a green team, which represented a utility company and its employees and customers. The collegiate teams set up their systems at Argonne National Laboratory, where a red team of professional hackers tried to infiltrate and disrupt the cybersecurity networks designed by the collegiate teams. The students had to defend their networks from cyberattacks while still providing services to the green team.

The collegiate teams were scored based on the security of their

network as well as the accessibility of their services to members of the green team.

"These competitions give students practical, hands-on experience that you just don't get in the classroom," said Logan Prough, safety and ethics officer for the Cyber Defense Club. "It's important to not only learn cybersecurity concepts, but also use and practice them in a realistic environment like these competitions so students are prepared to face real-world challenges."

"The club has 26 members for the 2016-17 school year. All members regularly train for competitions and contribute to the success of the team members who attend," said Eugene Vasserman, associate professor of computer science and faculty adviser to the club.

"I am proud of the team's success at the latest national competition, which followed several weeks of preparation, training and hard work from all club members," Vasserman said. "We would not be able to maintain our strong competition track record without the involvement of everyone in the Cyber Defense Club. Through guest speakers, training sessions and education activities, our members challenge each other to improve their skills and knowledge of cybersecurity. Our success is truly a team effort."

Team leaders

Richard Petrie	President
Caleb Fleming	Treasurer
Logan Prough	Safety and Ethics Officer

Faculty adviser

Eugene Vasserman, CS associate professor



**Second-place finish
at Argonne National
Laboratory Cyber
Defense Competition**

