**Student Delegate Application: APPA Cybersecurity & IT Summit 2025**

**Location:** Raleigh Convention Center, 500 South Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27601
**Conference Dates:** Sunday–Wednesday, September 7–10, 2025 (Student attendance: Monday–Tuesday, September 8–9; Volunteer shifts may occur Sunday–Tuesday, September 7–9)
**Application Opens:** Monday, June 23, 2025
**Application Deadline:** 11:59 PM ET, Tuesday, July 22, 2025
**Notification of Selection:** by Tuesday, August 5, 2025
**Sponsor:** Greenville Utilities Commission/APPA

**About the Opportunity**

The American Public Power Association (APPA) Cybersecurity & IT Summit is a premier industry event that addresses cybersecurity, IT infrastructure, risk, resilience, and workforce development within the utility sector. It brings together utility professionals, cybersecurity experts, and IT leaders for critical dialogue, collaboration, and strategic planning around protecting public power systems and advancing secure technology adoption.

This is a high-value professional opportunity: the non-member registration fee for industry professionals to attend this summit is typically around $2,000, depending on the date of registration. Selected ECU students will have the opportunity to attend at no cost, making this an exceptional opportunity to gain exposure, network, and build industry knowledge. In today’s competitive and shifting technology job market—where hiring for entry-level IT and cybersecurity roles has slowed and employers increasingly seek candidates with real-world experience—attending this summit helps students stand out by demonstrating initiative, industry awareness, and engagement beyond the classroom.

Selected ECU student delegates will:

* Review the detailed Summit agenda here: <https://my.publicpower.org/s/community-event?id=a1YUT0000039s2f2AA#/Agenda>
* Attend sessions covering a broad range of topics, including cybersecurity, risk management, IT governance, utility data, and critical infrastructure.
* Network with professionals working in public utilities and municipal IT environments.
* Volunteer for one shift (approximately 3–4 hours) between Sunday, September 7, and Tuesday, September 9.
* Share insights and lessons learned with peers upon return to campus (e.g., through AIS or WiCyS student clubs) and post a reflection on LinkedIn to express gratitude and highlight key takeaways.

**Eligibility**

Applicants must:

* Be in good academic standing (Undergraduates: GPA ≥ 2.5; Graduate students: cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher)
* Be an ECU student graduating December 2025 or later
* Be pursuing or exploring careers in Information Systems, cybersecurity, IT, data analytics, risk and compliance, or other business and technology-aligned fields (such as finance, supply chain, or operations)
* Demonstrate involvement in AIS and/or WiCyS or another ECU technology‑related student organization
* Demonstrate a pattern of engagement with professional associations, cybersecurity or IT meet-ups, or volunteer roles at related events
* Be available to attend the summit on Monday and Tuesday, September 8–9, and serve a volunteer shift between Sunday–Tuesday, September 7–9
* This is a university-sponsored event. Students may request a university excuse for their absence from class. If selected, please share this with your professors at the beginning of the semester so you can plan accordingly for your absence and any missed coursework

**Instructions:** Please type your responses directly into this document and email your completed application, along with your résumé labeled Lastname-APPA2025.pdf (or docx), to Dr. Brenda Killingsworth at killingsworthb@ecu.edu by 11:59 PM ET on Tuesday, July 22, 2025.

You will receive a confirmation from Dr. Killingsworth when your application is received.

**A. Student & Academic Information**

* Students must be able to provide their own transportation to and from the event. Dr. Killingsworth will be able to drive students who wish to leave from East Carolina University.
* Please indicate below whether you will need transportation.
	+ Do you need a ride to and from the event with Dr. Killingsworth? (Yes/No): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* LinkedIn Profile URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* ECU Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Major(s), Minor(s), and Certificate(s) (declared or intended): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Expected Graduation (Term & Year): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Availability to attend the summit and volunteer as outlined above (Yes/No): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Engagement, Leadership & Experience**

1. Describe your involvement in AIS or other technology-related student organizations. Include leadership roles, projects, and events you have contributed to. *(Max 300 words)*
2. Describe your engagement with external professional associations, conferences, cybersecurity or IT meetups, or other related community experiences. *(Max 250 words)*
3. Describe any current or previous work experience or internships. Highlight any roles or tasks that involved technology, problem-solving, customer service, data handling, project support, training/mentoring, or communication with external stakeholders. *(Max 250 words)*

**C. Career Interests & Alignment**

Select up to three industries you are most interested in (circle or highlight): - Energy/Public Utilities - Financial Services - Government/Defense - HealthTech - Supply Chain/Logistics - Consulting - Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Select all job functions you are targeting (circle or highlight): - Cybersecurity Analyst - Data Analyst / BI Analyst - IT Auditor / Risk Specialist - Systems or Network Administrator - Infrastructure / IT Operations - Tech-Adjacent Roles (e.g., supply chain systems, risk modeling, financial compliance) - Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Explain how your major or intended certificate connects to topics covered at the **APPA Cybersecurity and IT Summit** (e.g., smart grid, data resilience, utility risk management, or risk-focused strategies and technologies.

Identify 2–3 specific sessions or topics from the agenda that interest you and explain how they relate to your career path. *(Max 300 words)*

**D. Reflection & Peer Impact**

1. Why is attending the APPA Cybersecurity & IT Summit important to your career development? *(Max 400 words)*
2. How will you share what you learn with peers (and, if applicable, colleagues at your workplace)? Students are expected to:
	* Participate on an AIS or WiCyS student panel during the Fall 2025 term, and
	* Post a professional LinkedIn reflection summarizing key takeaways and expressing gratitude.
* In addition to these requirements, outline at least one other creative method you will use to disseminate insights—for example, presenting at a club meeting, writing a blog post, creating a short video recap, leading a peer workshop, or coordinating a College of Business social media takeover during the event to share live updates. *(Max 300 words)*
1. Describe any experience that prepares you to serve in a professional volunteer capacity at the summit (e.g., customer service, event staffing, leadership, peer mentoring, public speaking, tutoring, supporting onboarding/training activities, or other relevant volunteering experience). (Max 200 words)
2. Would you like to be considered for the College of Business social media takeover during the event? Dr. Killingsworth will help you coordinate with our staff to take on this role. If yes, briefly share why you’re interested and any relevant experience. (Max 150 words)

**Selection Criteria (Total: 100 Points)**

* ECU Involvement & Leadership (25 points)
* External Tech/Cyber Engagement (20 points)
* Work/Internship Experience (10 points)
* Career Alignment & Readiness (15 points)
* Reflection Essays (20 points)
* Peer Impact Plan (5 points)
* Resume (5 points)

**Sponsor Note**

The sponsor (Greenville Utilities Commission/APPA) will select the five student delegates based on the quality and completeness of submitted applications.

**Key Dates**

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**Questions?** Email **Dr. Brenda Killingsworth at killingsworthb@ecu.edu**.