



NEWSLETTER

MIC NEWS

September 2026

CYBERSECURITY **WORKFORCE** **INFRASTRUCTURE** SUMMIT

Building Community. Strengthening the Cybersecurity Profession.



Saturday, 19 September |

SUCCESS





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

ANTHONY BRISCOE



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Tell us about yourself.

I'm a Chicago native, technology executive, consultant, IT mentor, educator, minister, Navy veteran, and a spoken word artist and Hip Hope Emcee! My journey has been one of no excuses and a commitment to excellent work.

Take us back to the beginning of your career. What first sparked your interest in technology and cybersecurity, and how did you turn that interest into a profession?

My career began at age 14, working with youth at a summer camp in Michigan. I knew then my life would be about serving others. In corporate, I started in the mailroom at a brokerage firm and worked my way up to being the first technical support team member. My interest in technology was less about tech and more about helping people. I trained CSR teams for the brokerage firm, and we were heavily into printing contracts. I was tired of waiting

to put in requisitions to get toner from IT. I volunteered to replace the toner and fix paper jams. Seeing the smiles on my colleagues' faces, knowing they could count on me to resolve their issues, was everything. That spark still burns. Being a problem solver and maximizing efficiency efforts is always a win-win. Operational efficiency has always been my strength.

As you've grown in your career, what skills have become more important than you expected? Are there things like communication, business understanding, leadership, or relationship-building that you now view differently than you did earlier in your career?

Emotional Intelligence, business acumen, demographic intelligence, and leadership are all great stand-alones. However, if you don't know how to communicate well and effectively, it can be a challenge. I'm emotional, and though I've been criticized for it, no



one criticized my emotions when it was working towards their benefit. Communication matters but also knowing when to suck it up and deal with the heavy way of a situation is always necessary. Case in point: if a company gets breached, don't expect the CISO or Security Team to ask about your weekend or family; they jump right in, and while I don't use profanity, I've been a part of tabletop exercises that ran in real time, and that war room isn't a place for a faint heart. My time in the military taught me that communication is critical because language changes by branch. It's the same way in the business sector. Each company has its own communication style. Adjust and improve.

You've been part of the MiC community for many years. What originally brought you to MiC, and what has kept you connected and engaged with the community over time?

I heard of MiC through my LinkedIn feed. When I saw the Communicator Leadership Development Course, I was at a place in my career where I didn't feel heard. That was due to my communication style. I wanted trust without data. The MiC Communicators helped me understand that people listen to your voice, but in business they listen to the data you present. Once I learned that data-informed decisions move the C-Suite, I had no trouble making that shift. Leaning on colleagues and knowing I didn't have to do it all myself was part of that communication training. How else could we pull off a large IT budget overhaul implementing an external SOC, a zero-trust framework, a SIEM, and training guarantees for our

team?

What has kept me engaged with the MiC community over time is the people. Take cyber off the table and people still remain. Being around individuals who hold you accountable, help you stay accountable, let you pour into them, and help others develop makes MiC the perfect family. Some leadership programs say goodbye once you are done. MiC isn't that program; that's why I stay involved and engaged.

For established cybersecurity professionals who want to give back but may not know where to begin, what would you tell them about the value of becoming a mentor and actively supporting emerging talent?

One, MiC is always looking for mentors, as are several other organizations. Mentors who can connect people with advocates and sponsors in the industry are always needed. Giving back as a mentor is great. We have to be in positions to help people transform their lives. Education is what MiC academic team leads. Empowerment is what MiC mentors do. We transform the industry one cyber-trainee at a time through internships, apprenticeships, and corporate relationships by giving them exposure.

Having experienced the profession yourself and now mentoring emerging cybersecurity talent, what differences do you see between learning cybersecurity and actually being prepared to work and grow in the field?

First, let me clear up my role in the cybersecurity community because I never want to misrepresent myself or



the MiC family. I have an adjacent responsibility as the Unit Information Security Officer (UIISO); my title is Executive Director of IT. I focus on ensuring IT operations run effectively, efficiently, on time, and at scale. In my adjacent role as the UIISO, I serve as the CISO and Security Team's strategic partner. With a solid grasp of the industry, I bring a positive approach to enforcing compliance effectively while meeting client needs and delivering on commitments to internal and external stakeholders. I believe companies need to stop looking for unicorns and build their workforce by partnering with organizations like MNC-CTC, which already have a talent development pipeline.

America must get back to on-the-job training (OJT). Industry involvement and rapid technological advances mean universities can't keep pace with demand. Learning is part of the process, but proving you can work in the field requires mentoring, and training programs should require students to build a strong, GitHub-type portfolio to showcase their work. That must become a mandatory requirement for organizations looking to partner with business entities.

Looking back at your own journey, what advice would you give your younger self at the beginning of your career—and what advice would you give someone trying to build that career today?

This is a great question. I often have those “younger-self” conversations with young adults. For me it all breaks down to a single phrase I would say:

- Have no fear. Fear either causes paralysis or becomes a stepping stone.

- What happened to you isn't you
- Excuses stagnates growth; accountability activates progression
- Do what you need to know to do what you are called to do later

Anything else you like to share to the readers?

To close out, I am working on a marketing project for my single In My Veins by The Endurer. Poetry and rapping are my “out” or mental health balance activities. I give a lot, mentor a lot, and show up for young people often. So, a shameless plug, I need the entire cybersecurity community to purchase my single on iTunes/Amazon/Google Play, etc. It's a poem for men and the women who support them, mental health management, and sharing. I believe it has the power to open up a strong dialogue for me and break the cycle of silence and “keeping it all in” mentality!

Professionally, I am a part-time grad student studying for my Master's in Instructional Technology. As I look to become more proficient in GRC, I am studying audit and AI fundamentals through ISACA.



CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMIT FINDINGS

September 19, 2026 • 44 (Virtual) and 15 (In-Person) • 13 post-Summit survey responses

The Summit brought the MNC Cybersecurity Workforce Hub's central challenge into focus: capable people need connected pathways to meaningful cybersecurity work. Across the survey, questions, and group chat, participants asked how training becomes applied experience, how employers assess readiness, and how newcomers can gain a first opportunity.



Summit survey, n=13. *Very or extremely clearly.

Summit survey, n=13. Respondents could select multiple parts.

Survey n=13. *Very or extremely clearly. "Most valued parts" allowed multiple selections.

WHAT WE LEARNED

Readiness requires practice. Responses called for hands-on training tied to real situations, clearer descriptions of job duties and skills, and ways to document what candidates can do. Questions about degrees, prior experience, paid apprenticeships, and remote participation showed how opaque entry routes can be.

Access depends on relationships. Participants sought employer connections, beginner opportunities, mentorship, and outreach beyond a single event. Career stories were the most selected source of value in the survey (11 of 13); the employer pipeline discussion and the Resource Center each appeared in five responses.



A CONCRETE OUTCOME FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Summit resulted in the establishment of the Cybersecurity Resource Center. It puts the Hub's workforce infrastructure model into practice by linking supervised applied learning with community cybersecurity education and resilience. The Center gives residents a setting to build judgment and experience while connecting workforce preparation to service in the community.

The work ahead is to turn that interest into durable connections among community members, educators, employers, and workforce partners.

Source: Summit registration and attendance reports; post-Summit survey; session Q&A and group chat reports. Attendance counts are registration records marked attended. Survey results describe 13 respondents, not all attendees.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

OUR VISION FOR THE CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE HUB

I came away from the Cybersecurity Workforce Infrastructure Summit energized by the people who joined us and by the questions they asked. They wanted to know how to gain real experience, how to navigate apprenticeship opportunities, and how to connect their preparation to work that matters. Their questions affirmed why we built the MNC Cybersecurity Workforce Hub.

I believe deeply in the MiC ecosystem we have created. MiC builds community, mentorship, leadership, and professional identity. MNC-CTC provides structured education and the Cybersecurity Residency Program. MiC Talent Solutions connects developing talent with apprenticeships and employer pathways. Together, these parts support people from their first exploration of cybersecurity through preparation, employment, and service to their communities.

The Summit made that vision visible. We heard a clear call for hands-on learning, honest conversations about employer expectations, and more accessible entry points. We also saw the energy that comes when aspiring professionals, educators, employers, and community partners begin to see themselves as part of one connected effort. That is the kind of alignment our field needs.

I am especially excited that the Summit led to the establishment of the MNC Hub Cybersecurity Resource Center. It gives our residents an opportunity to apply what they are learning through supervised work that strengthens community cybersecurity and resilience. The Center reflects what I believe about this ecosystem: developing talent and serving communities can advance together.

We have built a strong foundation, and this Summit strengthened my confidence in where we are going. I invite everyone who joined us to keep building with us. When we align opportunity, preparation, employers, and community impact, we create a workforce infrastructure that can open doors and make our communities stronger.



MARY N CHANEY

Mary N Chaney

Chairwoman, CEO & President

Minorities in Cybersecurity, Inc.

d/b/a MNC Cybersecurity Workforce Hub



MIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONTINUE THE IMPACT: SUPPORT THE CYBERSECURITY RESOURCE CENTER



As we continue building the MNC Cybersecurity Workforce Hub, we invite the MiC Community to support the Cybersecurity Resource Center. The Center brings community impact and workforce preparation together by providing cybersecurity education and resources to the public while creating supervised applied-learning opportunities for MNC-CTC Residents.

Community members can participate based on their availability and expertise by sharing professional experience, supporting Residents, or helping the public better understand cybersecurity and digital safety. The Center is open Saturdays from 10:00 AM–4:00 PM CT, with calendar invitations sent when individual appointments are scheduled—there is no expectation to attend every Saturday or stay for the full day.

If you would like to join the Cybersecurity Resource Center volunteer pool, please contact us to get involved.

Learn more here: ineedcyberhelp.org

UP NEXT: THE MNC-CTC SEMINAR SERIES



The 9th installment of MNC-CTC Seminar Series kicks off on October 03, 2026.

Join us for our next session, **“Explaining Hard Concepts Simply for YOUR Talents and Gifts,”** featuring guest speaker Yeshua Hannah.

bit.ly/mncctcseminars

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2 years of IT or Cybersecurity Experience
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