

The Critical Infrastructure Security Consortium

THE NEWSLETTER

◆
May 2026



A Letter From the Executive Director: Betsy Soehren Jones



As we move through this season, I'm reminded how quickly the landscape around us continues to evolve with risk ever present and how important it is to stay focused on the people and communities at the heart of our work.

In this inaugural issue of our newsletter, we're highlighting priority areas we will work on, share articles relevant to your work, and share upcoming events.

The intent is to give a quick snapshot of the work of CISC.

Thanks to your partnership and support, we continue to advance our mission in meaningful ways from strengthening engagement with stakeholders to expanding our outreach and impact.

Together, we can make a real difference. Thank you for your continued support!

Enjoy this month's newsletter!

Betsy Soehren Jones

In this newsletter:

Switchboard goes LIVE!

Hill Day

AI Benchmarking Working Group

Workforce Development Working Group

2026 Post-Quantum Cryptography Initiative

Notes from the Field



Now on the Switchboard - Get your docs in one place

We are now using the Switchboard to share files!

Access our resource library for documents, details, and decisions at glyphapp.io.

As discussed in the meeting, the Switchboard is the new central information hub—and it's officially launched!

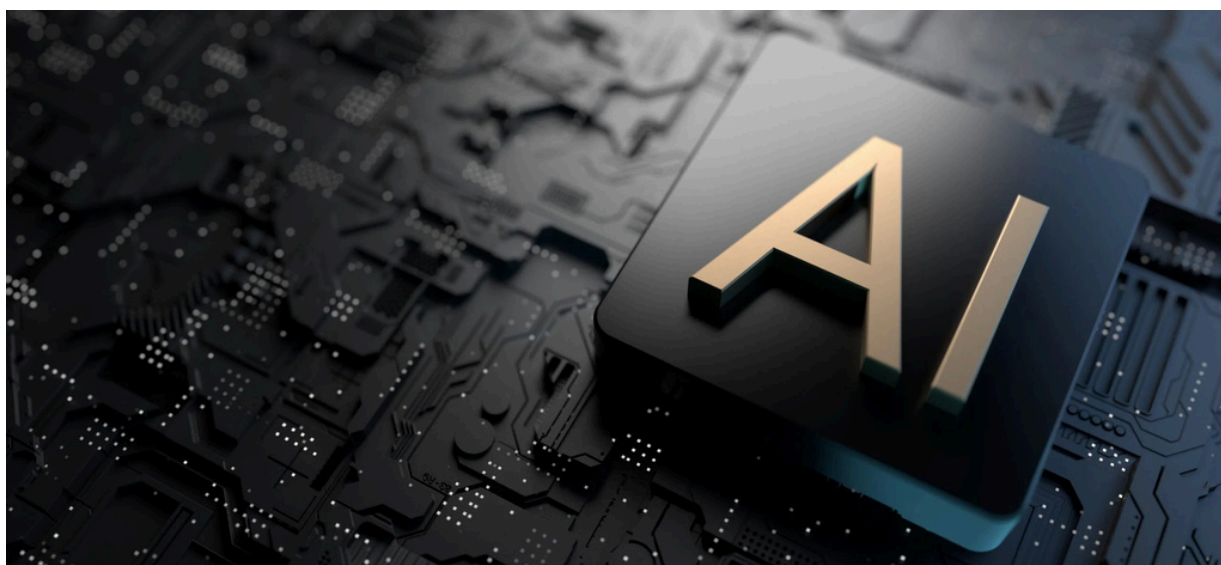
If you have questions or need access, email Miranda Riccardi at mriccardi@uscisc.com.



Hill Day Spotlight

Earlier this spring, the CISC partnered with Mike Sykuta from the University of Missouri. The team met with Senators Schmidt and Kennedy along with Representative Fleishman to discuss the Department of War's planned base upgrades and the resulting energy infrastructure needs.

The conversation also focused on cybersecurity, data protection, and coordination as new grid and technology projects advance. The team also attended the NARUC Winter Policy Summit, where a major theme was protection of the electric grid through public-private collaboration.



AI Benchmarking Working Group

The CISC team is hosting four sessions in 2026 to foster collaboration, share actionable insights, and help members evaluate their progress toward AI readiness.

Highlights from Q1 Session in March in partnership with Jackson State University and Entergy:

- Best practices for AI and data governance frameworks (GDPR, Australia)
- Proper data tagging and standardized input into AI assets
- AI department structures and decision-making models
- Communication strategies for public and regulators
- “Build vs. Buy” – leaning toward Build

For info or to join, contact Sandy Simon at ssimon@uscisc.com.

Upcoming Events:

- **May Monthly Meeting**
 - When: May 14, 2026 — 12:00 PM–1:00 PM EST
 - Topics: Grant work and project plans with University of Missouri and the National Academies
- **June Q2 AI Benchmarking Session**
 - When: Jun 25, 2026 — 1:00 PM–4:00 PM ET
 - Topics: Combining Data Across an Enterprise – University of Missouri/Remote



2026 Focus: Creating a Cyber and AI-Ready Workforce

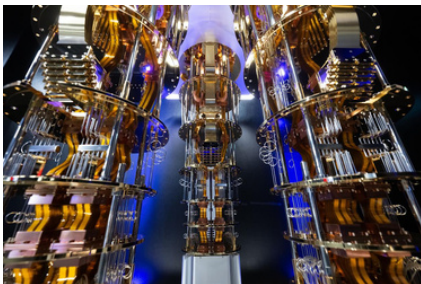
Our Workforce Development Working Group continues to strengthen the talent pipeline through collaboration and shared learning.

The group's abstract, *Rebooting the Cyber Pipeline for the Grid*, will be presented at the NICE Conference (June 2026) with Stony Brook University.

This year's priorities:

- Quarterly benchmarking newsletter
- LinkedIn engagement and student spotlights
- University partnerships with CEWD and others
- Pre-packaged learning modules on cyber & AI
- Entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer for faculty

2026 Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) Initiative



CISC is launching its 2026 PQC Initiative—helping critical infrastructure owners and operators understand quantum computing's implications and take practical steps toward readiness.

Key Questions:

- Where are our cryptographic dependencies?
- What risks are most urgent?
- How do we align security, operations, and leadership?

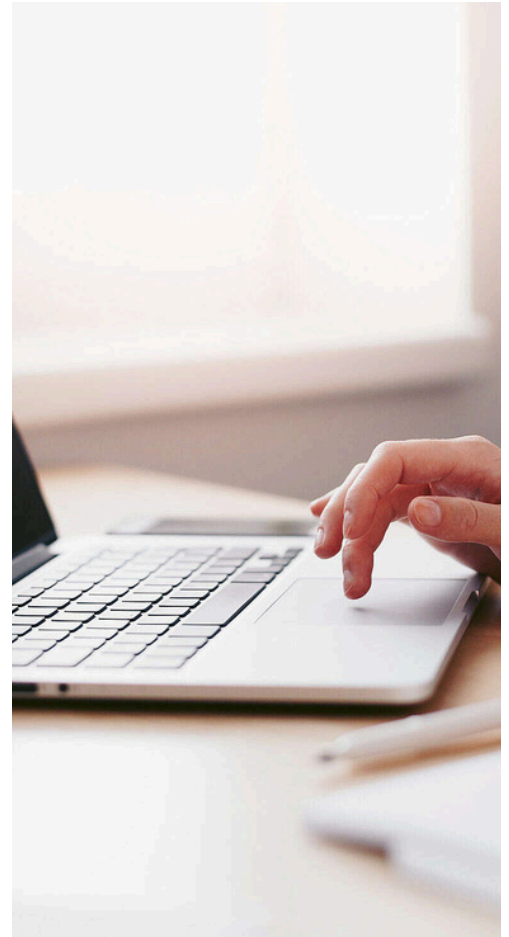
Leads: Charles Salas and Damien Fortune

Interested in joining the Taskforce or getting more information? Just reach out to Miranda Riccardi at mriccardi@uscisc.com.

Notes from the Field – Articles of Interest:



- Midnight in the War Room: Documentary of Cyber War
- The Agentic Grid: The Next Evolution of Energy Infrastructure
- Research suggests CFOs should step up AI governance
- Can A.I. Already Do Your Job?
- 3 Questions: How AI could optimize the power grid
- America's biggest power grid operator has an AI problem – Too many data centers
- The Future of the Boardroom: 5 AI Takeaways Every Board Member Should Know | Nasdaq



Editor's Note:

Welcome to the first edition of the CISC AI Benchmarking Newsletter and thank you for reading. I'm Teresa Wykpisz-Lee, a communications and change management advisor to CISC. I currently work as the Director of Integrated Communications at ULSE, am well versed in public relations, crisis comms and change management and formerly supported communications at both the U.S. Department of Energy and Exelon. I'm excited to share updates, insights, and opportunities highlighting the people, programs, and ideas moving our work forward.

For more information, visit: www.cisc.org

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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/uscisc>
