



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

150 West State Street, Trenton NJ 08608

Phone (609) 989-1100

QuickTakes!

Kean University Cybersecurity Center Hosts Its Inaugural Event on Ransomware

June 28, 2016

Over 150 local business owners and IT professionals attended the Cybersecurity Center at Kean University's Ransomware Symposium on June 20, 2016. The symposium, co-sponsored by the Union County Small Business Development Corporation at Kean University, was the inaugural event for the Kean University Cybersecurity Center, a new initiative at Kean to focus on educating businesses and municipalities about emerging threats in cybersecurity in order to achieve behavioral change that would create a more secure IT environment.

Ransomware is a form of malicious software that blocks access to computer systems in order to extort a payment for ransom. Panelists at the Kean event provided practical tips for preventing ransomware attacks and other cybersecurity breaches. Speakers included representatives from the FBI and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. New Jersey Assemblyman Jon M. Bramnick (pictured) delivered the symposium's keynote address.



Kelly LeDet, a presidential appointee and the first woman and African-American to serve as Regional Administrator for the U.S. Small Business Development Corporation, welcomed attendees at the event. She provided an overview of cybersecurity initiatives being spearheaded by the federal government.

Jim Drylie, PhD, executive director, Cybersecurity Center at Kean University, led a panel discussion on ransomware risk mitigation. Panelists included Scott Schober, author, President and CEO of Berkeley Varitronics Systems Inc., FBI Special Agent John Leo, and Krista Mazzeo, Cyber Threat Intelligence Analyst, NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

www.njascu.org

*The College of New Jersey
Kean University
Montclair State University*

*New Jersey City University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Rowan University*

*Stockton University
Thomas Edison State University
William Paterson University*

“Educate your employees,” Ms. Mazzeo urged small business owners. “Humans are the weakest link in cybersecurity.”

The Cybersecurity Center at Kean University is dedicated to educating businesses and municipalities about emerging threats. Michael Cooper, Dean, Kean University College of Business and Public Management, commented that the center was the vision of Kean University President Dawood Farahi.

Ransomware and other cybersecurity threats “are wreaking havoc on small businesses that rely upon computers to operate their business, but are too small to have a formal IT infrastructure,” said New Jersey SBDC at Kean University Director David Margulies. “New Jersey’s Small Business Development Centers are committed to educating business owners and helping them to avoid and mitigate this escalating threat.”

About Kean University

Founded in 1855, Kean University has become one of the largest metropolitan institutions of higher education in the region, with a richly diverse student, faculty and staff population. Kean continues to play a key role in the training of teachers and is a hub of educational, technological and cultural enrichment serving nearly 15,000 students. The University’s six undergraduate colleges offer 50 undergraduate degrees over a full range of academic subjects. The Nathan Weiss Graduate College offers four doctorate degree programs and more than 60 options for graduate study leading to master’s degrees, professional diplomas, or certificates. With campuses in Union and Toms River, New Jersey, and Wenzhou, China, Kean University furthers its mission by providing an affordable, accessible and world-class education. Visit www.kean.edu.