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Cybersecurity, AI Security, Digital Trust, and Cyber Policy

Fulbright Scholar Alumni | U.S. Department of State Speaker Program

2022 40 Under 40 in Cybersecurity | Senior IEEE Member

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Dr. Maurice E. Dawson Jr. is a STEM academic executive and institution builder. He serves as Director of the Center for Cyber Security and Forensics Education (C²SAFE) at the Illinois Institute of Technology, a federally designated national center he has led since 2018; as the university's NSA Centers of Academic Excellence Point of Contact; as Steering Committee Lead for the interdisciplinary Master of Cyber Security program spanning four academic units across two colleges and the law school; and as a tenured Associate Professor of Information Technology and Management. More than fifteen years in higher education followed a decade of executive leadership in defense and aerospace, where he held profit-and-loss responsibility for programs valued at up to approximately \$20 million.

He has now built federally designated cybersecurity capacity at two American universities and helped stand up centers of excellence at two more abroad. At the University of Missouri–St. Louis he was part of the team whose program earned the first National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education designation in the greater St. Louis region, and he then secured the only NSA and DHS focus area specialization held by any institution in Missouri or its eight neighboring states. At Illinois Tech he directed the university's designated center and led the renewal carrying it through the academic year 2028. He has served as NSA CAE Point of Contact at both institutions.

His leadership signature is external orientation converted into internal capacity. He has built a partner network of more than thirty industry, government, law-enforcement, academic, and professional-society organizations, established academic alliances with three U.S. combatant commands, created or rebuilt degree programs and concentrations at four institutions, and translated those relationships into scholarships, internships, applied projects, sponsored research, and employment for students. He has taken two regional cybersecurity conferences from the ground up, most recently growing ChiCyberCon from approximately 200 to more than 1,200 participants.

His record of sustained scholarship, funded activity, graduate mentorship, national service, and international recognition is consistent with appointment at the rank of Professor, subject to institutional review. He is a six-time Fulbright Scholar and Specialist across five countries, a U.S. Department of State and USAID speaker, guest editor for three peer-reviewed journal special issues, and founding Editor-in-Chief of an ACM-indexed journal. His scholarship carries approximately 2,000 citations, an h-index of 22, and an i10-index of 56, and ScholarGPS places him in the top 1.21 percent of ranked scholars worldwide by publication productivity.

His preparation spans the disciplinary range of a comprehensive college of sciences and technology. Computer science and engineering technology are his home disciplines. His current research applies statistical modeling and machine-learning methods that connect directly to the work of mathematics and statistics faculty, and the designated program he helped build at Missouri was itself a joint venture between a mathematics and computer science department and an information systems department. His sustained collaboration with Argonne National Laboratory, Fermilab, and federal science sponsors has given him working fluency in the funding environment, laboratory infrastructure requirements, and undergraduate research culture of the natural and physical sciences. He leads outside his own specialization by building governance structures, resourcing faculty expertise, and holding every program to a shared standard of quality rather than by claiming technical authority he does not hold.

The sections that follow are ordered for an academic-leadership review: scope of responsibility, institutional breadth, administrative appointments, budget and resource stewardship, faculty and personnel leadership, student success, program and enrollment growth, accreditation, and international capacity building, followed by the full research, teaching, and service record.

SCOPE AND SPAN OF ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

This section consolidates the operational scope of a federally designated center directorship, cross-college program governance, and institutional service, so that the breadth of responsibility can be compared directly against conventional decanal experience.

Units, Programs, and Governance

- **Federally designated center, directed since 2018.** Sole director of the Center for Cyber Security and Forensics Education (C²SAFE), Illinois Tech's National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education, co-designated by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security; led the self-study and renewal carrying designation through academic year 2028.
- **Federal designation leadership at two institutions.** NSA CAE Point of Contact at both Illinois Tech and, previously, the University of Missouri–St. Louis, where he was part of the implementation team that earned the first CAE-CDE designation in the greater St. Louis region and the only NSA and DHS focus area specialization held anywhere in Missouri or its eight neighboring states.
- **Cross-college curriculum governance across four academic units.** Steering Committee Lead for the interdisciplinary Master of Cyber Security, coordinating twelve faculty across the Department of Information Technology and Management and the Department of Computer Science (College of Computing), the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (College of Engineering), and Chicago-Kent College of Law. Sets admissions and curricular standards, coordinates faculty across units that do not report to one another, and governs both on-campus and online delivery of seven specialized tracks.
- **Research laboratories under Center direction.** The Smart Tech Lab and the ForSec Lab operate under C²SAFE, alongside hands-on Linux and Windows instructional laboratories built across private and public cloud deployments. NSA-funded equipment supporting the Center is housed at Illinois Tech's Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Campus in Wheaton, Illinois, where the Center maintains its offices.
- **Graduate researchers under Center supervision.** Five doctoral students and four master's students currently conduct research within C²SAFE, with regular lab meetings that structure the Center's research community.
- **Programs built or substantially redesigned.** Three fully online M.A.S. cybersecurity tracks (Cybersecurity Management, Cybersecurity Technology, Computer Engineering); a four-course SecureAI applied concentration validated against NSA/NCAE-C Knowledge Units; an IPRO course in cybersecurity entrepreneurship; a Coursera course in the Illinois Tech partner channel; the Information Systems degree program at Southern University Shreveport; and a four-course MBA in Data Analytics at Thomas Edison State University.
- **Convening portfolio.** Hosts ChiCyberCon, the university's flagship cybersecurity education conference and expo; supports ChiBRRCON and other regional cybersecurity conferences; previously built STLCyberCon at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

Financial and Personnel Scope

- **Sponsored and external funding held.** \$1,050,000 in sponsored awards as Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator, plus more than \$85,000 in personally secured Fulbright and USAID awards and an additional \$25,000 to \$45,000 in USAID-funded assignments.

- **Federal infrastructure funding enabled by designation.** During his tenure as CAE Point of Contact at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, the designated program secured \$493,650 across two NSA grants for laboratory infrastructure, equipment, and curriculum development.
- **Center operating budget.** The Center draws on a combination of institutional support, sponsored award funds, and conference and partner revenue. Dr. Dawson directs allocation across research assistantships, laboratory and cloud infrastructure, conference operations, travel, and student programming, and serves as principal or co-principal investigator on the Center’s sponsored awards. Precise annual figures are available from Illinois Tech financial administration on request.
- **Prior profit-and-loss authority.** Direct P&L and customer-relationship responsibility for a \$20 million simulator program with \$50 to \$100 million projected long-term revenue; an \$8.5 million avionics radar program; a \$2 million integration facility; and workstreams representing roughly \$14 million in annual hardware portfolio responsibility. Company-wide information assurance P&L across multiple Department of Defense programs.
- **Faculty search and evaluation service.** Served on fifteen faculty search committees, chairing several. Also served on a dean search committee, a department chair search committee, a vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusion search committee, and the Presidential Search Committee (2021 to 2022). Currently serves on the University Committee on Promotion and Tenure and its Associate Committee; previously served on the University Sabbatical Committee (2023 to 2025).
- **Direct personnel management.** Supervision of engineering and information-security staff as an engineering manager and as Chief Information Officer of a defense small business, including hiring, performance evaluation, and workload assignment.

External and Compliance Scope

- **Partnership portfolio.** More than thirty active partner organizations across industry, government and law enforcement, higher education, and professional societies; academic alliances with U.S. Cyber Command, NORAD/U.S. Northern Command, and U.S. Strategic Command through the North American Defense and Security Academic Alliance.
- **Accreditation and compliance.** Led NSA/DHS CAE-CDE designation and renewal work at two universities; secured a federal focus area specialization; conducted an ABET evaluation review for Colorado State University Global Campus; served on AACSB International accreditation committees at two institutions; currently pursuing NSA CyberAI Program of Study validation.
- **International institution building.** Contributed to the establishment of a national center of excellence in cybersecurity at Prince Sultan University in Riyadh and to cybersecurity research capacity at Botswana International University of Science and Technology, with follow-on engagements in Tunisia, Kosovo, and Nigeria.
- **Convening and visibility.** Grew ChiCyberCon from approximately 200 to more than 1,200 participants and STLCyberCon from 50 to more than 800; designated university media expert on cybersecurity; TEDx speaker; keynote addresses in six countries since 2024.

INSTITUTIONAL BREADTH AND STUDENT POPULATIONS SERVED

Academic programs are not portable across institution types. A curriculum and delivery model that works at a residential research university will fail at a commuter campus, and a schedule that works for a full-time twenty-year-old will fail for a thirty-five-year-old working a full shift before class. Dr. Dawson has taught, built programs, and held administrative responsibility across five distinct institution types, and the differences between them have shaped how he designs and delivers academic programs.

- **Public urban commuter university.** University of Missouri–St. Louis (2014 to 2018), a metropolitan campus of roughly 15,000 students, the majority of whom commute, work while enrolled, and transfer in from regional

community colleges. Program design there had to assume evening and weekend scheduling, transfer credit articulation, and students balancing employment against coursework. The cybersecurity program built under exactly those constraints earned the first federal Center of Academic Excellence designation in the greater St. Louis region.

- **1890 land-grant historically Black university.** Alabama A&M University (2011 to 2014), serving a substantially first-generation and rural student population, where he taught in the Department of Management and Marketing while concurrently serving as Chief Information Officer of a defense contractor in Huntsville. That period established both his research foundation and his understanding of what advising intensity and structured support mean for students who arrive without family experience of higher education.
- **Private technology-focused research university.** Illinois Institute of Technology (2018 to present), a research-intensive institution of approximately 7,000 students with a heavily international graduate population, where expectations for research productivity, doctoral supervision, and federal designation are considerably higher and the student support model is entirely different.
- **Online and distance education at scale.** Led curriculum design for three fully online graduate cybersecurity tracks launched with an online program manager to reach working professionals; developed and teaches a Coursera course for a global learner base; created a virtual internship enrolling more than 500 students across more than ten countries. More than five years of course development and delivery across the Blackboard, Canvas, and Moodle learning management systems.
- **Adult-serving and fully online institutions, as an external program developer.** Built a four-course MBA in Data Analytics for Thomas Edison State University, which serves adult learners through competency and credit-transfer pathways, and led an ABET evaluation review for Colorado State University Global Campus, a fully online institution. Built the Information Systems degree program at Southern University Shreveport, a historically Black institution.
- **Resource-constrained international institutions.** Botswana International University of Science and Technology, Prince Sultan University in Riyadh, Kolegji AAB in Kosovo, Tunis Business School, and the Technical University of Munich, where the practical questions are how to build laboratory capacity, curriculum, and faculty expertise when the resource base is thin.

The operative lesson is that modality, scheduling, advising intensity, transfer policy, and assessment design have to be matched to the student population actually enrolled rather than inherited from whatever institution a faculty member happened to train at. The population that recurs most often across this record is the one a public urban university serves: transferring, working, place-bound, and first-generation students.

EDUCATION

- **Postdoctoral Diploma, Systems and Information Technology** - Universidade Fernando Pessoa, Portugal - 2020–2021
- **Ph.D., Computing** - London Metropolitan University, United Kingdom - 2016–2017
- **Doctor of Computer Science (D.C.Sc.)** - Colorado Technical University - 2006–2009
- **Master of Business Administration** - Colorado Technical University - 2010
- **M.S., Management Information Systems Security** - Colorado Technical University - 2005–2006
- **B.S., Applied Technology** - Athens State University - 2002–2004

LANGUAGES

English, German, French, Swahili (listed in order of proficiency, highest to lowest).

PROFESSIONAL / ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Director, C²SAFE; NSA CAE Point of Contact (POC); Steering Committee Lead, Interdisciplinary Master of Cyber Security Program; Associate Professor (Tenured), ITM - Illinois Institute of Technology - 2024–Present
- Director, C²SAFE; Assistant Professor, ITM - Illinois Institute of Technology - 2018–2024
- Fulbright Scholar Specialist, Tunis Business School, University of Tunis, Tunisia - 2025
- Fulbright Scholar, Kolegji AAB, Kosovo - 2023
- Research Fellow, Assembly of the Representatives of the People, Republic of Tunisia - 2021–2023
- Fulbright Scholar, BIUST, Botswana - 2020–2021
- Visiting Professor, Dept. of Informatics, Technical University of Munich, Germany - 2019
- Fulbright Scholar Specialist, Prince Sultan University, Saudi Arabia - 2017–2018
- Assistant Professor, Information Systems, University of Missouri–St. Louis - 2014–2018
- Assistant Professor, Management & Marketing, Alabama A&M University - 2011–2014
- Independent Higher Education Consultant (1099), Southern University Shreveport - 2018
- Independent Higher Education Consultant (1099), Colorado State University Global Campus - 2014
- Independent Higher Education Consultant (1099), Thomas Edison State University - 2012–2014

Additional international visiting-scholar history and full academic appointment detail are available in the supplementary professional history record on file with the department; pre-academic industry, government-contractor, and military experience (2000–2014) is detailed in Industry Experience, below.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Director, Center for Cyber Security and Forensics Education (C²SAFE) - oversight of NSA/DHS Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE) accreditation (renewed through academic year 2028); builds and sustains a partner network of 30+ corporate, government, law-enforcement, academic, and professional-society organizations (full listing in Center Partnerships, below), giving Illinois Tech students direct pathways to internships, applied projects, and government-sponsored funding, including eligibility for the U.S. Department of Defense Cyber Scholarship Program (full tuition, books, and stipend for qualifying students).
- NSA CAE Point of Contact (POC), Illinois Institute of Technology - serves as the university's designated liaison to the National Security Agency's Centers of Academic Excellence program.
- Steering Committee Lead, Interdisciplinary Master of Cyber Security Program - directs cross-college curriculum governance for Illinois Tech's Master of Cybersecurity (M.A.S.), which offers seven specialized tracks (including computer engineering, power and energy, and cyber operations) spanning the College of Computing and partner engineering departments; sets admissions and curricular standards and coordinates faculty across units for the program's on-campus and online delivery.
- Established and sustains strategic academic partnerships with U.S. Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM), the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) / U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), and U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) / North American Defense and Security Academic Alliance (NADSAA) - partnerships that expand government-community internship pathways for students, including opportunities that lead to security clearance sponsorship and funding.
- Guest Editor, Applied Sciences (MDPI) - “Innovations in Information Privacy for Network Security: Overcoming Challenges in a Digital Age” [JCR Q1–Q3 / SJR Q1–Q2]

- Guest Editor, Systems (MDPI) - “Advances in Artificial Intelligence for Intelligent Systems: Methods, Trust, and Cyber Defense” [JCR Q1 / SJR Q2]
- Guest Editor, Micromachines (MDPI) - “Embedded System for Smart Sensors/Actuators and IoT Applications” [JCR Q2 / SJR Q2]
- Founding Editor-in-Chief (now Editor-in-Chief Emeritus), International Journal of Hyperconnectivity and the Internet of Things (IJHIoT); journal indexed in ACM Digital Library and Cabell's Directories.
- Past President (2020–2021), Midwest Association for Information Systems (MWAIS).
- AACSB International accreditation committee service - University of Missouri–St. Louis and Alabama A&M University, supporting business-school accreditation efforts alongside cybersecurity program leadership.
- University service: Tenure Committee (UCOPT/AUCOPT, 2025–2026), University Sabbatical Committee (2023–2025), Honorary Doctoral Degree Committee (2021–2024), Presidential Search Committee (2021–2022), University Faculty Council (2019–2023), ITM Curriculum Committee (2018–2023).

BUDGET, RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP, AND ADVANCEMENT

Sponsored and Philanthropic Funding Secured

- **Co-Principal Investigator, Motorola Solutions Foundation, \$1,000,000 (2023 to 2024).** Foundation award developed in partnership with Kaplan, funding the GUARD AI-driven intrusion detection system, a mobile cyber software laboratory, the cybersecurity entrepreneurship IPRO course, and student professional certifications. Represents corporate-foundation cultivation, proposal development, and stewardship of a seven-figure gift through delivery.
- **Principal Investigator, U.S. Department of State, \$50,000 (2018 to 2020).**
- **Federal infrastructure funding at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.** During his service as NSA CAE Point of Contact, the designated cybersecurity program secured \$493,650 across two NSA grants, directed toward laboratory infrastructure, equipment, and curriculum advancement. Federal designation is itself a funding instrument, and this is the clearest illustration of it.
- **Personally secured competitive federal international awards, more than \$85,000 (2014 to 2025)** through Fulbright and USAID, with an additional \$25,000 to \$45,000 in USAID-funded volunteer and fellowship assignments; a further \$42,000 Fulbright Kenya award for 2027 was declined.
- **Independent program-development contracts, more than \$70,000 combined,** delivering a degree program, an ABET evaluation review, and a graduate analytics curriculum for three institutions.
- **Student-facing award dollars generated.** Foundation funding directly financed professional certifications for students who could not otherwise have afforded them: Noble Antwi, an international student from Ghana in the M.A.S. Cyber Forensics and Security program, has stated that without Motorola Solutions Foundation and ISSA scholarship support he could not have pursued the CCSP, Okta, and CISSP credentials while managing tuition. Five supervised USAID and Winrock International student assignments carried \$5,000 awards each. Federal CAE-CDE designation under his directorship qualifies students for the Department of Defense Cyber Scholarship Program, which covers full tuition, books, and stipend.

Facilities, Equipment, and Laboratory Stewardship

- **Federally funded laboratory infrastructure.** NSA-funded equipment supporting the Center is installed at Illinois Tech’s Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Campus in Wheaton, Illinois, where C²SAFE maintains its offices. The Smart Tech Lab and the ForSec Lab operate under Center direction.

- **Instructional infrastructure.** Built and administers hands-on Linux and Windows technical laboratories across private and public cloud deployments, including the mobile cyber software laboratory funded under the Motorola Solutions Foundation award.
- **Conference operations.** Directs ChiCyberCon, an annual conference and expo drawing more than 1,200 academic, industry, and government participants, and supports ChiBRRCON and other regional conferences. Conference operations are underwritten through corporate and agency sponsorship secured by the Center, with registration, exhibitor, and sponsor revenue managed against an annual event budget.
- **Center operating budget.** Operating funds combine institutional support, sponsored awards, and conference and partner revenue, allocated across personnel, laboratory infrastructure, events, travel, and student programming.

Prior Executive Financial Responsibility

- Profit-and-loss and customer-relationship authority for the Transportable Black Hawk Operational Simulator program (\$20 million, with \$50 to \$100 million projected long-term revenue); the CAAS Special Operations Aircraft Silent Knight Radar program (\$8.5 million); and the Aviation Systems Integration Facility (\$2 million), spanning workstreams representing roughly \$14 million in annual hardware portfolio responsibility. Company-wide information assurance profit-and-loss responsibility across multiple Department of Defense programs.

Advancement Posture

- Corporate and foundation relationships already cultivated at the executive level include Motorola Solutions, Cisco, IBM, Microsoft, KPMG, Fortinet, CompTIA, and Argonne National Laboratory. Alumni and donor engagement at the University of Missouri–St. Louis included representing the campus at University of Missouri System alumni events in Washington, D.C., and speaking at schools and community organizations across the St. Louis region that provide financial and volunteer support to the university. At Illinois Tech he has programmed and hosted donor-facing events at the Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship, a philanthropically endowed facility, including a November 2021 fireside interview with Ed Bellis, co-founder and chief technology officer of Kenna Security, following its acquisition by Cisco. Bellis serves on the Kaplan Institute Board of Advisors.

FACULTY AND PERSONNEL LEADERSHIP

Faculty leadership responsibilities, presented as a distinct section because they are otherwise distributed across institutional service, program governance, and prior industry management.

Faculty Recruitment and Senior Leadership Search

- **Fifteen faculty search committees served, several chaired.** Sustained participation in the recruitment, evaluation, and selection of faculty colleagues, including committee leadership.
- **Dean search committee.** Served on a decanal search, evaluating candidates against college-level leadership criteria.
- **Department chair search committee.** Served on a departmental leadership search.
- **Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion search committee.** Served on a cabinet-level administrative search.
- **Presidential Search Committee (2021 to 2022).** Senior-leadership recruitment and evaluation at the institutional level.

Faculty Evaluation, Promotion, and Development

- **University Committee on Promotion and Tenure and Associate Committee (2025 to 2026).** Reviews and renders judgment on faculty promotion and tenure dossiers across the university, applying institutional standards for research, teaching, and service.
- **University Sabbatical Committee (2023 to 2025).** Evaluated faculty development and research leave proposals and recommended awards.
- **Honorary Doctoral Degree Committee (2021 to 2024).**
- **Scholarly development of colleagues and students.** Guest editor for three peer-reviewed journal special issues, creating publication pathways for faculty and doctoral researchers; founding Editor-in-Chief, now Emeritus, of the International Journal of Hyperconnectivity and the Internet of Things. Co-edited a scholarly volume with two Botswana International University of Science and Technology colleagues and recruited two Illinois Tech alumni as contributing chapter authors.

Faculty Coordination and Shared Governance

- **Cross-unit faculty coordination.** As Steering Committee Lead for the interdisciplinary Master of Cyber Security, coordinates twelve faculty across four academic units spanning the College of Computing, the College of Engineering, and Chicago-Kent College of Law, sets curricular standards, and aligns instruction across on-campus and online modalities.
- **Multidisciplinary program building.** At the University of Missouri–St. Louis the designated cybersecurity program was a joint venture between the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Information Systems in the College of Business Administration, offering parallel tracks for students entering from different disciplinary backgrounds. Building and accrediting a program that a mathematics department and a business school both had to own is directly comparable to the coordination a college of sciences and technology requires.
- **Curricular governance.** ITM Curriculum Committee (2018 to 2023) and University Faculty Council (2019 to 2023), the principal shared-governance body for faculty voice in institutional decision-making.
- **Doctoral mentorship as faculty pipeline.** Eleven doctoral candidates supervised, with recent co-authored publications in Algorithms, Applied Sciences, Systems, and Education Sciences as direct products of that supervision. Doctoral candidate Samson Quaye has published first-authored work in a Q1 engineering journal, presented with a student research team at a national cybersecurity conference, and intends to teach and mentor in turn.
- **From student to faculty colleague.** Damon Walker was an undergraduate information systems student when Dr. Dawson recruited him for a Winrock International assignment in Conakry, Guinea, in 2017. Walker returned to West Africa annually thereafter, working in Senegal, Benin, and Nigeria; completed an M.B.A. and a Ph.D. in Education; received the President's Volunteer Service Award; and is now Assistant Teaching Professor of Information Systems and Technology at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, where he recruits students into the same program. He is also a co-author on the Ethiopia microfinance chapter. A single act of recruitment produced a faculty colleague who now reproduces the pathway.

Direct Personnel Management Experience

- **Chief Information Officer, Reynolds Research & Technology Corporation (2011 to 2014).** Led the information technology and information security organization for a defense small business, with hiring, evaluation, and performance-management responsibility.
- **Engineering Manager, Textron Systems (2010 to 2011).** Led a network and security engineering staff, including work assignment, technical supervision, and performance review.
- **Senior Program Manager, Rockwell Collins (2006 to 2008).** Led cross-functional program teams with customer, schedule, and staffing accountability.

STUDENT SUCCESS, RETENTION, AND DEGREE COMPLETION

Documented student outcomes produced under Center leadership. Each named outcome below is published in Illinois Tech's student and alumni story archive or in university news.

Nationally Competitive Awards and Federal Fellowships

- **Department of Defense SMART Scholarship.** Cedric Nartey (ITM, M.A.S. Cyber Forensics and Security) received the Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation scholarship, which covers education expenses, provides a stipend, and guarantees a summer internship, in his case with the Missile Defense Agency, with a year-for-year post-graduation service commitment. He was, by his account, only the second student in Illinois Tech history to receive it, and credits Center faculty encouragement together with his Center-based Kosovo practicum and Motorola-funded intrusion detection research for the award.
- **U.S. Department of State Foreign Affairs Information Technology Fellowship.** Two Center-mentored students entered the FAIT Fellowship, which carries State Department internships and a five-year Foreign Service commitment as Information Management Specialists. Akvile Kiskis, a transfer student, was in the fellowship's first cohort in 2017 and interned at the State Department in Washington and at the U.S. consulate in Frankfurt. Andreas Vassilakos was one of five fellows selected nationally in the 2019 cohort and credits Dr. Dawson with taking him on for research and cybersecurity skill development.
- **CIFAR Inclusive AI Scholarship (2024).** Doctoral candidate Samson Quaye received the award, which funded a two-week program at the Vector Institute at the University of Toronto.
- **Foundation-funded professional certification.** Motorola Solutions Foundation and ISSA scholarship support enabled Noble Antwi, an international master's student from Ghana, to earn the ISC2 Certified Cloud Security Professional credential alongside CompTIA Security+, AWS Security Specialty, AWS SysOps Administrator, and Microsoft SC-300, while holding internships with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and Wintrust Financial.

Undergraduate and Graduate Research Outcomes

- **Course project to peer-reviewed publication and international presentation.** Michal Markevych completed a semester of research on using GPT-4 to enhance intrusion detection systems as a course requirement; the work was accepted by the Knowledge-Based Organization conference hosted by the Nicolae Balcescu Land Forces Academy in Sibiu, Romania, where he presented as an undergraduate. The resulting co-authored paper has since accumulated more than 140 citations, making it the most-cited work in Dr. Dawson's record and a direct demonstration that undergraduate research can produce field-shaping scholarship.
- **Alumni as published scholarly authors.** Andreas Vassilakos and Harshini Chellasamy, both recent alumni at the time, were recruited as contributing authors to an edited scholarly volume on cybersecurity capabilities in developing nations.
- **Student research teams at national conferences.** A Center student research team led by doctoral candidate Samson Quaye presented a panel on AI- and OSINT-driven target profiling at the CornCon cybersecurity conference, building directly on Center research methodology.
- **Doctoral progression and completion.** Seven doctoral candidates supervised to completion prior to 2018; five doctoral students and four master's students currently conduct research within C²SAFE, several producing peer-reviewed, quartile-ranked publications during candidacy.

Access, Applied Learning, and Placement

- **Virtual cyber defense internship (2021 to 2023).** Created and directed a virtual internship on the Elevate platform, powered by Cisco. Within two years it became the largest and fastest-growing program of its kind, enrolling more than 500 students, including participants from more than ten countries, and removing the geographic and financial barriers that prevent many students from taking an internship at all.

- **Client-facing international practicum.** Conceived, recruited, and led a five-student team through a month-long applied cybersecurity practicum in Pristina, Kosovo (Summer 2024), placing students with the Kosovar Centre for Security Studies, Three Folders, and the Innovation Centre Kosovo to deliver incident response, business continuity, and disaster recovery programs to live clients under EU regulatory constraints.
- **Funded international field assignments.** Five students placed on USAID and Winrock International ICT assignments in Senegal and Guinea, each carrying a \$5,000 award. Separately, Nihar Patel (ITM) built the first website for Benin's largest soybean farming cooperative through the USAID Farmer-to-Farmer program and trained the cooperative's staff to maintain it.
- **Transfer and articulation pathways** built with College of DuPage, Moraine Valley Community College, University of Dubuque, Drexel University, and Lewis University, creating a corridor into the cybersecurity major for community college and transfer students.
- **Flexible and online delivery.** Led curriculum design for three fully online M.A.S. cybersecurity tracks launched with online program manager Risepoint to reach working professionals, and developed a Coursera course extending foundational instruction to a global learner base.
- **Student leadership and peer retention infrastructure.** Harshini Chellasamy served as president of the Women in Cybersecurity student chapter, an organization focused on the advancement, recruitment, and retention of women in the field; launched a campus cybersecurity mentoring program; mentored a Chicago Public Schools student through iMentor; and was hired by Deloitte as a Cyber Risk Analyst.
- **Placement and mobility outcomes.** Graduates of the programs Dr. Dawson supports have moved into the Department of Defense, the U.S. Foreign Service, federal and county law enforcement, financial services, and consulting. Sydney Hardwick (ITM '15), who grew up on Chicago's South Side, is a staff program manager for design at Visa and was named 2022 Emerging Business Leader of the Year by the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce.

Enrollment Context and Analytical Note

The graduate programs supported by the Center grew substantially from 2018 forward, driven by online modality expansion, employer-aligned curriculum, and federal designation. That growth trajectory was interrupted by a sector-wide contraction in international graduate enrollment beginning in 2025, produced by changes in federal immigration and visa policy rather than by program performance. Nationally, new international enrollment fell approximately 17 percent in fall 2025 and international graduate enrollment fell approximately 12 percent, among the largest single-year declines on record; NAFSA reported an average 24 percent decline in new international graduate enrollment, and an Inside Higher Ed analysis of self-reported institutional figures found an average year-over-year graduate decline near 29 percent. Master's programs in computing and cybersecurity were among the most exposed, because they are short, heavily international, and dependent on post-study work pathways now under restriction. In Chicago, DePaul University reported roughly 755 fewer international students in fall 2025, driven by a decline near 62 percent in new international graduate students, and subsequently laid off 114 staff members.

This distinction matters for evaluating enrollment leadership. A program whose growth rests on international graduate demand is exposed to federal policy in ways no dean controls. The durable lesson is the case for enrollment diversification: transfer articulation, domestic workforce pipelines, employer-sponsored and working-professional pathways, and scholarship-backed access for local students are structurally more resilient than international graduate recruitment, and they are precisely the mechanisms Dr. Dawson has built.

Outcome Metrics to Supply

- Institutional retention, persistence, placement, and enrollment data for these programs are held by Illinois Tech institutional research and can be provided on request. Every outcome documented above is drawn from published university sources rather than from internal estimate.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND ENROLLMENT GROWTH

- **Interdisciplinary Master of Cyber Security (M.A.S.), Illinois Tech.** Steering Committee Lead for a program offering seven specialized tracks, including computer engineering, power and energy, and cyber operations, coordinating twelve faculty across four academic units in the College of Computing, the College of Engineering, and Chicago-Kent College of Law.
- **Online M.A.S. cybersecurity tracks, Illinois Tech.** Led curriculum design for three fully online tracks launched with online program manager Risepoint, opening a working-professional market to the college.
- **SecureAI applied concentration, Illinois Tech.** Conceived and directed the design and validation of a four-course concentration aligned to NSA/NCAE-C SecureAI Knowledge Units, covering adversarial machine learning, model integrity, secure deployment, and AI governance, and now pursuing NSA CyberAI Program of Study validation.
- **Cybersecurity program, University of Missouri–St. Louis.** Member of the implementation team that built a multidisciplinary cybersecurity program from scratch, earning federal CAE-CDE designation within roughly two years of the program’s formation and a federal focus area specialization within three. The program offered undergraduate and graduate certificates and an undergraduate minor before expanding to full degrees.
- **Cybersecurity entrepreneurship IPRO course, Illinois Tech.** Created and launched under the Motorola Solutions Foundation award.
- **Coursera course, Illinois Tech partner channel.** Developed and teaches Cyber Security Technologies for a global learner base.
- **Information Systems degree program, Southern University Shreveport (2018).** Built the program as an engaged independent contractor.
- **MBA in Data Analytics, Thomas Edison State University (2012 to 2014).** Created a four-course graduate analytics program for an adult-serving institution.
- **Convening growth.** ChiCyberCon grew from approximately 200 to more than 1,200 participants; STL CyberCon grew from 50 to more than 800 over four years, drawing more than 500 information technology professionals and students by 2017; the Center additionally supports ChiBRRCON and other regional cybersecurity conferences.
- **Enrollment trajectory.** Programs grew substantially from 2018 until the 2025 sector-wide contraction in international graduate enrollment driven by federal visa and immigration policy. See the analytical note under Student Success above. Enrollment headcount and credit-hour data by year are available from Illinois Tech institutional research.

ACCREDITATION, FEDERAL DESIGNATION, AND SHARED GOVERNANCE

Federal Designation Leadership at Two Universities

- **Illinois Institute of Technology, National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education.** Directs the designated center and led the self-study and curricular mapping for designation renewal, carrying it through academic year 2028 and validating the ITM bachelor’s degree in cybersecurity against federal Knowledge Unit standards. Serves as the university’s NSA CAE Point of Contact.
- **University of Missouri–St. Louis, first CAE-CDE designation in the greater St. Louis region (2016).** Member of the implementation team whose multidisciplinary program earned the designation roughly two years after the program was formed, making UMSL the only institution in the St. Louis region and one of only two in Missouri to hold it. Served as the university’s NSA CAE Point of Contact.
- **University of Missouri–St. Louis, federal focus area specialization (2017).** Secured a specialization in Security Policy Development and Compliance through academic year 2021, making UMSL the only institution in Missouri or any of its eight neighboring states to hold any of the seventeen available focus areas. Focus area specializations

are available only to designated centers and require detailed course mapping against mandatory federal knowledge units. Dr. Dawson received the certificate from the Commandant of the National Cryptologic School and the Department of Homeland Security Branch Chief for Cybersecurity Education and Awareness.

Why Designation Matters at the College Level

Federal designation is not a credential for the faculty member who obtains it. It attaches to the program and reaches every enrolled student, whether or not that student ever takes a class with the person who wrote the self-study. It qualifies students for federal scholarship programs that cover tuition, books, and stipend; it opens agency and cleared-industry hiring pathways; it unlocks infrastructure grants, as it did at Missouri, where the designated program secured \$493,650 across two NSA grants; and it signals curricular rigor to employers and to accreditors. Obtaining it requires the same work a dean does: mapping curriculum against external standards, coordinating faculty across departments that answer to different chairs, documenting laboratory and instructional capacity, and sustaining the record through renewal cycles.

Programmatic and Institutional Accreditation

- **NSA/NCAE-C SecureAI Knowledge Unit alignment** for the SecureAI concentration, with NSA CyberAI Program of Study validation currently in progress.
- **ABET.** Led an ABET evaluation review for Colorado State University Global Campus (2014).
- **AACSB International.** Accreditation committee service at the University of Missouri–St. Louis and Alabama A&M University, supporting continuous improvement review at two business schools.
- **Regional accreditation.** Participated in Higher Learning Commission self-study work at both the University of Missouri–St. Louis and the Illinois Institute of Technology, and in Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation work at Alabama A&M University, giving him direct working experience with both regional accreditation frameworks.

Shared Governance

- University Faculty Council (2019 to 2023); University Committee on Promotion and Tenure and Associate Committee (2025 to 2026); University Sabbatical Committee (2023 to 2025); Honorary Doctoral Degree Committee (2021 to 2024); Presidential Search Committee (2021 to 2022); ITM Curriculum Committee (2018 to 2023); fifteen faculty search committees, several chaired, plus dean, department chair, and vice presidential searches.

INTERNATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING AND INSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT

Six Fulbright Scholar and Specialist awards across five countries have been used to build academic institutions rather than to visit them. The work below is included in an academic-leadership file because building a center, a curriculum, and a laboratory where none existed, under real resource constraints, is the same problem a dean faces when a college has ambition beyond its current budget.

Saudi Arabia: Building a National Center of Excellence

- **Fulbright Scholar Specialist, Prince Sultan University, Riyadh (2017 to 2018).** Engaged to support development of what became PSU's Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity (CyBex). The assignment included meeting with the Kingdom's National Cyber Security Center to discuss cybersecurity education policy, followed by a return visit to complete laboratory and curriculum design at the university.
- **Institutional outcome.** PSU became the first university in the Kingdom to establish a master's program in cybersecurity and to embed cybersecurity tracks across all of its computing bachelor's programs, with the center

positioned under Saudi Vision 2030 as a hub for applied research, capacity building, certification, and competition programs.

- **Scholarly product.** The resulting analysis, "Unprepared for Cybersecurity in Saudi Arabia: Argument for a Shift Towards Cyber Readiness," argued from recent attacks on government entities that new law, hardened technology, and education were all required, and was presented at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2019.
- **Regional propagation.** The relationships formed through this work extended across the region and led to sustained engagement in Tunisia: a Research Fellowship with the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (2021 to 2023), the Positive Uses of Technology and Science scientific workshop convened in Tunisia in July 2022, and a Fulbright Specialist appointment at Tunis Business School, University of Tunis (2025).

Botswana: Research Capacity and Regional Security in Southern Africa

- **Fulbright Scholar, Botswana International University of Science and Technology (2020 to 2021).** Conducted research and delivered lectures at BIUST, examining why cybersecurity in a rapidly digitizing country is not solely a technical problem. Botswana's high-trust society and small population interact with modernized central infrastructure to produce exposure that technical controls alone do not address.
- **Regional interdependence as the analytical core.** Botswana depends on South Africa for elements of its infrastructure and on Zimbabwe to supplement its labor force, which means a vulnerability in one southern African state propagates to its neighbors. This is the finding with the greatest regional significance: in an integrated region, national cybersecurity capacity is a shared asset and a shared liability, and capacity building in one country raises the security floor for all of them.
- **Applied defense and conservation work.** Examined the cybersecurity of drone and internet-enabled sensor data used by the Botswana Defence Force for anti-poaching operations across the Central Kalahari and Moremi reserves and a national park network covering nearly a fifth of the country, where poaching pressure originates in Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. Securing the collected data is what makes the surveillance capability usable as evidence.
- **Institution-to-institution research capacity.** Co-edited *Cybersecurity Capabilities in Developing Nations and Its Impact on Global Security* (IGI Global, 2022) with BIUST colleagues Oteng Tabona and Thabiso Maupong, recruiting South African researchers as contributors and building a regional publication network where one had not existed. His own chapter, "East African Cybersecurity: Improving Microfinance Database in Ethiopia," co-authored with faculty at the University of Missouri–St. Louis and the University of Nebraska Omaha, addressed the security of microfinance databases that Ethiopian farmers depend on to finance land leases, materials, and labor, and proposed open-source solutions chosen specifically because cost is the binding constraint.
- **Reciprocal exchange.** Researchers met during the Botswana appointment subsequently participated in ChiCyberCon on the Illinois Tech campus in April 2022, converting a one-directional Fulbright visit into a continuing two-way academic relationship.
- **Published outputs.** The Botswana research produced two co-authored articles with BIUST colleagues in *Procedia Computer Science*, an Elsevier open-access conference-proceedings series indexed in Scopus (2025 CiteScore 3.9, Q2, Computer Science all), Web of Science CPCI-S, INSPEC, and Engineering Village: an analysis of Botswana's cybercrime legislation and an exploratory analysis of the national cybersecurity threat landscape, cited 22 times combined. A third output, an analysis of Botswana cybersecurity threats using publicly available data, appeared in the *International Journal of ICT Research in Africa and the Middle East*.

Convening Across Regions

- The Positive Uses of Technology and Science scientific workshop, convened in Tunisia in July 2022, drew participants from L'Institut Supérieur des Etudes Technologiques en Communications de Tunis, Nigeria, Saint Louis

University, Capital Technology University, and Botswana International University of Science and Technology, linking institutions across North Africa, West Africa, southern Africa, and the United States.

- Additional capacity-building engagements: Fulbright Scholar at Kolegji AAB, Pristina, Kosovo (2023) and the subsequent student practicum there; Fulbright Scholar Specialist at South Ural State University, Russia (2014); advisory work with the Dominican National Police (2018); U.S. Department of State advisory engagement on national cybersecurity and AI strategy in Belize (2026); and a keynote invitation to TASS Nigeria formalized through the U.S. Embassy in Abuja (2026).

USAID Farmer-to-Farmer: A Fully Funded Student Access Program

Dr. Dawson built a pathway at the University of Missouri–St. Louis through which information systems students carried out funded international technology assignments under the John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program, administered by Winrock International and Catholic Relief Services under USAID. The design mattered as much as the destination. Undergraduates received course credit and graduate students enrolled for independent study or research credit, so the experience counted toward the degree rather than competing with it. Students paid nothing: visa, airfare, lodging, translator, and a daily per diem were covered, with funds deposited into student accounts before departure. Assignments ran roughly two weeks in Africa and three in Asia, with extended options up to six months, and students worked directly with a host ministry, university, or agribusiness alongside the local Winrock office. More than \$30,000 in assignment awards flowed to participants across two years. For students at a commuter campus who work while enrolled, this is what makes international experience possible rather than theoretical.

- **Own faculty assignments.** Dakar, Senegal (SEN121, July 2016), assisting the Office of Vocational Agriculture Education in establishing a functional website for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment; Saint-Louis, Senegal (SEN187, January 2017), training of trainers in management accounting tools for the Horticulture Initiation Center of Saint Louis; and Ethiopia (ET-103), assisting Metemamen Microfinance Institution in identifying technologies to support staff knowledge and mobile banking operations. The Ethiopia assignment produced the peer-reviewed chapter on securing microfinance databases that Ethiopian farmers depend on for land-lease, materials, and labor financing.
- **Students escorted and supervised.** Four students escorted in 2016 and two more in 2017, with five supervised student assignments documented separately in this record. Participants included Dan Redden (Faranah, Guinea), Damon Walker (Conakry, Guinea and Kaffrine, Senegal), Ashley Moss (Bignona, Senegal), and Omar Salif (Dabola, Guinea).
- **Assignments facilitated beyond his own institution.** Lagos, Nigeria, with Damon Walker, and Timor-Leste with Angela Wells of City University of Seattle, extending the pathway to colleagues and students at other universities.
- **Recognition.** President's Volunteer Service Award, Bronze (2016) and Silver (2018), for cumulative volunteer service hours.

CENTER PARTNERSHIPS

Under Dr. Dawson's directorship, C²SAFE has built and sustains a partner network of more than 30 organizations spanning industry, government and law enforcement, higher education, and professional societies - a scale of external engagement central to the Center's NSA/DHS CAE-CDE designation (renewed through academic year 2028) and to the applied, project-based experience the Center provides Illinois Tech students. Partnership listing verified directly against the Center's website (iit.edu/c2safe/partners) as of July 2026; additional defense-sector academic alliances are detailed separately below under Government, Defense, and Law Enforcement Engagement.

Industry Partners

AccessData, Authentify, Cisco, CompTIA, Computer Associates, Fermilab, Fortinet, Guidance Software, IBM, KPMG, Microsoft, Motorola, Sungard, UniForum, X-Ways Forensics, and other companies.

Government and Law Enforcement Partners

Argonne National Laboratory (U.S. Department of Energy), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Chicago Police Department, Kane County Government, and Cook County Public Defender.

Higher Education Partners

College of DuPage, Moraine Valley Community College, University of Dubuque, Drexel University, and Lewis University.

Professional Societies and Associations

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), ISACA (formerly the Information Systems Audit and Control Association), Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP), Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), UniForum, and the Technology Executives Club.

GOVERNMENT, DEFENSE, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ENGAGEMENT

Dr. Dawson's Center directorship and personal research/service record encompass sustained engagement with U.S. federal, defense, and law-enforcement entities, as well as international government partners secured through Fulbright and U.S. Department of State channels. This is presented as a distinct section to consolidate government-facing impact that is otherwise distributed throughout the record.

- National Security Agency (NSA) and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) - co-designating agencies for Illinois Tech's National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (CAE-CDE); designation renewed under Dr. Dawson's directorship through academic year 2028, and validates the ITM bachelor's degree in cybersecurity while qualifying students for the U.S. Department of Defense Cyber Scholarship Program (tuition, books, and stipend).
- U.S. Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM) - academic-alliance partner established and sustained by Dr. Dawson, expanding student pathways to government-community internships and security-clearance-track opportunities.
- North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) / U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) - academic-alliance partner established and sustained by Dr. Dawson.
- U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) and the North American Defense and Security Academic Alliance (NADSAA) - academic-alliance partner established and sustained by Dr. Dawson; NADSAA is administered jointly by USSTRATCOM and USNORTHCOM.
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) - C²SAFE government and law-enforcement partner.
- Argonne National Laboratory (U.S. Department of Energy) - C²SAFE government partner.
- Chicago Police Department, Kane County Government, and Cook County Public Defender - C²SAFE regional law-enforcement and government partners, providing applied digital-forensics collaboration and training opportunities for students.
- U.S. Department of State - sponsor of Dr. Dawson's Fulbright Scholar and Fulbright Specialist awards (seven awards, 2014–2027, one declined), through which he has delivered cybersecurity capacity-building engagements to host-government institutions in Russia, Saudi Arabia, Botswana, Kosovo, and Tunisia.
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) - funder of Dr. Dawson's Visitor Speaker Program engagement in Fiji (2024) and additional volunteer/fellowship assignments in Senegal, Ethiopia, the Dominican Republic, Guinea, and the Gambia (2014–2018).

- Assembly of the Representatives of the People, Republic of Tunisia - hosted Dr. Dawson as a Research Fellow (2021–2023), engaging directly with a national legislative body on cybersecurity and digital-governance policy.
- Dominican National Police - invited Dr. Dawson to advise directly on national cybersecurity issues (December 2018), following his published research on cybersecurity challenges in the Dominican Republic.
- U.S. Embassy, Abuja, Nigeria - channel for Dr. Dawson's formalized 2026 keynote invitation to the TASS Nigeria conference (hosted by CEMRI and the University of Abuja), reflecting continued engagement with U.S. diplomatic missions in support of his international speaking record.

Taken together, this government- and defense-facing engagement - spanning three U.S. combatant commands, two federal designating agencies (NSA/DHS), the FBI, a national laboratory, regional law enforcement, and government partners in five countries through Fulbright/USAID - has directly supported over \$85,000 in personally secured Fulbright and USAID award funding (2014–2025; a further \$42,000 Fulbright Kenya award for 2027 was declined) plus an additional \$25,000–\$45,000 in USAID-funded volunteer and fellowship assignments (2014–2018), and underpins the federal accreditation that makes Illinois Tech students eligible for Department of Defense cybersecurity scholarship funding.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Before and alongside his academic career, Dr. Dawson held technical and executive leadership roles in defense, aerospace, and information-assurance industry positions, as well as independent higher-education consulting engagements and active-duty-adjacent military service. This experience underpins his applied, practitioner-informed approach to cybersecurity research and education.

Founder, AI-Secure Consulting Group LLC

Chicago, Illinois - August 2024–Present

Independent consultancy providing cybersecurity, AI, and supply chain security advisory services to industry and government clients. Developed several cybersecurity and AI training courses tailored to supply chain security in manufacturing environments. Also engaged in an advisory capacity with the U.S. Department of State in Belize on national cybersecurity and AI strategy.

Independent Higher Education Consultant (1099 Contractor)

Southern University Shreveport - 2018

Engaged as an independent contractor to build the university's Information Systems degree program.

Independent Higher Education Consultant (1099 Contractor)

Colorado State University Global Campus - 2014

Engaged as an independent contractor to lead an ABET evaluation review.

Independent Higher Education Consultant (1099 Contractor)

Thomas Edison State University - 2012–2014

Engaged as an independent contractor to create a four-course MBA in Data Analytics program. Combined value of the three independent higher-education consulting engagements listed above (Southern University Shreveport, Colorado State University Global Campus, and Thomas Edison State University) exceeds \$70,000.

Chief Information Officer, Reynolds Research & Technology Corporation

Huntsville, Alabama - September 2011–May 2014

Led IT and information-assurance operations for a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) executing multiple U.S. Army contract vehicles, including the AMCOM EXPRESS (Aviation and Missile Command Expedited Professional and Engineering Support Services) and Information Technology Services Small Business (ITS-SB) contracts.

Engineering Manager (Information Assurance), Textron Systems

Hunt Valley, Maryland - January 2010–August 2011

Led a network and information-assurance engineering staff designing, developing, and implementing network and security solutions; performed functional and cross-functional requirements analysis, system security risk assessment and mitigation across the program lifecycle, and system certification and accreditation planning and testing.

Information Assurance Lead, Future Research Corporation

July 2008–December 2009

Served as company-wide Information Assurance Subject Matter Expert with profit-and-loss responsibility across multiple U.S. Department of Defense programs; executed the DoD IA discipline under DoDI 8500.1/2 and the DIACAP certification and accreditation process (DoDI 8510), and led systems-security-engineering activities including threat assessment, data protection, and validation of IA strategies.

Senior Program Manager, Simulation & Training Solutions / Army Transportables, Rockwell Collins

March 2008–July 2008

Held profit-and-loss and customer-relationship responsibility for the Transportable Black Hawk Operational Simulator (TBOS) program, a ~\$20 million initiative with a projected \$50–100 million long-term revenue potential, including obsolescence management, production, delivery, and customer support to the Army's System Simulation and Development Directorate.

Senior Program Manager, Rockwell Collins

Hunt Valley/Cedar Rapids - June 2006–March 2008

Program-managed the Common Avionics Architecture System (CAAS) Special Operations Aircraft Silent Knight Radar program (~\$8.5M) and directed program execution for the Aviation Systems Integration Facility (~\$2M budget), including SoSCOE, Battle Command Product Line, Unmanned Air System, and Common Missile Warning Systems workstreams representing roughly \$14M in annual hardware portfolio responsibility.

Senior Systems Engineer, Rockwell Collins

September 2004–June 2006

Performed systems-engineering and information-assurance work in the Government Systems Advanced Technology Information Security group, ensuring security requirements flowed correctly into hardware, software, and ASIC engineering; briefed and interfaced directly with the National Security Agency (NSA) and Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and led Current Force IA systems support for the Future Combat Systems program.

Information Assurance Engineer, BAE Systems (MDA & GMD Non-Mission Systems)

May 2004–September 2004

Served as Certification Lead and sole Systems Security Authorization Agreement (SSAA) requirements author for the Sea-Based X-Band Radar (SBX) and Ground Mid-Course Defense (GMD) programs for the Missile Defense Agency, and supported the MDA Joint National Integration Center, AEGIS, and multiple SIPRNET-connected sites.

Cryptographic Technician (Collection), U.S. Navy Reserve

Greater Minneapolis–St. Paul Area - October 2005–September 2008

Operated information-operations collection systems to identify, locate, and report signals of interest supporting worldwide threat assessment; provided tactical and strategic signals-intelligence and information-warfare support to surface, subsurface, air, and special-warfare units, including network target development, red/blue team operations, and vulnerability assessment.

Senior Systems Analyst, U.S. Army Reserve

January 2000–October 2005

Held Information Assurance systems-administration and analysis duties (MOS 25B/25C/74B10/74B20), including malfunction isolation, program design/testing, technical documentation, and team leadership within the Information Assurance section.

TEACHING

Dr. Dawson has taught 25+ distinct course preparations at Illinois Tech across the undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels since 2018, spanning Cyber Security Management, Cloud Computing Security, Database Security, Operating Systems Security, Systems Security Engineering, and Software Assurance, in addition to leading a study-abroad applied cybersecurity course in Kosovo. With support from a Motorola Solutions Foundation grant (Co-PI, 2023–2024), he created and launched an IPRO course in cybersecurity entrepreneurship, in which students developed products and created services. He received the College of Computing Teaching Award (Spring 2021) and the School of Applied Technology Education Excellence Award (Spring 2019). His teaching also extends to large-scale online delivery: he developed and teaches a Cyber Security Technologies course on Coursera, and led curriculum design for Illinois Tech's fully online M.A.S. in Cybersecurity tracks launched with online program partner Risepoint (see Online Course Development, under Major Research and Applied Projects, below).

Dr. Dawson has more than 5 years of experience developing and delivering coursework across the Blackboard, Canvas, and Moodle learning management systems, and has built and administered hands-on technical labs in both Linux and Windows environments, including private and public cloud deployments, to support cybersecurity coursework and applied student projects.

Doctoral and graduate supervision: 7 doctoral candidates supervised to completion prior to August 2018; C²SAFE currently supports 5 doctoral students and 4 master's students conducting research under Dr. Dawson's direction, including candidates in the Ph.D. in Information Technology program (2024–present): Samson Quaye, Maria Soto, Kevin Vocarro, and Hrijuta Chakraborty. Several recent co-authored journal publications (Algorithms 2024; Applied Sciences 2025; Systems 2026; Education Sciences 2026) are direct products of this current doctoral mentorship, evidencing translation of supervision into peer-reviewed, quartile-ranked scholarly output.

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Dr. Dawson's research agenda centers on AI-enabled cybersecurity, cyber defense of critical infrastructure, cyber warfare and information operations, and global cybersecurity capacity building. Early work (2010–2017) established foundations in secure systems engineering, technology adoption, and cyber-terrorism research. A second phase (2018–2023) extended this into enterprise cybersecurity frameworks, IoT security, and capacity-building research conducted through Fulbright and USAID-funded international engagements. The current phase (2024–present) applies AI and machine learning directly to cybersecurity problems - intrusion detection, social-network security, digital-twin resilience, and IoT device testing - published in Scopus-indexed, quartile-ranked venues (Algorithms, Applied Sciences, Systems, Education Sciences).

Future research priorities: (1) AI-enabled cyber defense for critical infrastructure and cyber-physical systems; (2) cybersecurity and information operations in the context of geopolitical competition and national resilience; (3) scalable cybersecurity education and capacity-building in developing and transitional economies, building on a sustained record of six Fulbright awards across five countries.

MAJOR RESEARCH AND APPLIED PROJECTS

Beyond individual publications, Dr. Dawson conceives, directs, and staffs applied cybersecurity and AI projects carried out largely by C²SAFE-affiliated graduate students under his supervision. Selected projects are summarized below, each grounded in a peer-reviewed publication or independent news source cited alongside it.

STLCyberCon: Cybersecurity Conference (University of Missouri–St. Louis)

During his tenure at the University of Missouri–St. Louis (2014–2018), Dr. Dawson spearheaded STLCyberCon, growing the conference from 50 to more than 800 participants over four years.

ChiCyberCon: Chicago's Premier Cybersecurity Education Conference (Illinois Institute of Technology)

Dr. Dawson took over a previous Illinois Tech conference, FORENSECUR, and rebuilt it into ChiCyberCon, growing attendance from 200 to more than 1,200 participants. ChiCyberCon is now Illinois Tech's flagship cybersecurity education conference and expo, drawing academic, industry, and government participants each year; it has been covered by CBS News Chicago, profiled in Loyola University Chicago's Department of Computer Science newsroom, documented on the U.S. Department of Defense's DVIDS platform, and is detailed on the conference's official site (chicybercon.com) and Illinois Tech's events page.

AI GUARD: Guided AI System for Intrusion Detection

Dr. Dawson directed a two-stage applied research project on AI-augmented intrusion detection, funded in part by a \$1,000,000 Motorola Solutions Foundation grant conducted in partnership with Kaplan (Co-PI; awarded 2023, period of performance 2023–2024), which also funded the creation of a mobile cyber software lab. The first stage (Markevych & Dawson, 2023) reviewed how AI, including large language models, could enhance intrusion detection system (IDS) accuracy and response time; this paper became one of Dr. Dawson's two most-cited works (143 citations per Google Scholar). The second stage (Zziwa, Pawar, Nartey, & Dawson, 2025) advanced the concept into GUARD, a working anomaly-based IDS built by a four-person student team in a three-week sprint: the team wrote Python-based packet-capture and preprocessing pipelines and validated that an LLM-based detection layer could identify anomalous network traffic, demonstrating a functional path from literature review to deployable prototype.

AI OSINT: Automated Target Profiling

Dr. Dawson directed a graduate student project (Soler, Dawson, & Colina, 2025) that designed and built an AI-driven open-source intelligence (OSINT) platform automating the creation of target profiles from public social media data (Facebook, Twitter/X, and LinkedIn via RapidAPI), using OpenAI's GPT-4o to synthesize the collected data into structured intelligence reports and YOLOv8/DeepFace computer-vision models for facial recognition and verification. The platform was deployed on a secure AWS cloud instance with an interactive web interface, illustrating how AI can improve the efficiency and depth of operational threat-intelligence collection. This project extends a research line Dr. Dawson began in 2018 (Dawson, Lieble, & Adeboje, OSINT data mining and link analysis to track terrorist activities).

AI-Driven Identification of Online Extremism

Dr. Dawson led a research effort examining whether anonymous domestic extremists could be identified from their own social media activity. The foundational study (Dawson, Vassilakos, Castanon Remy, & Setor, 2021) analyzed extremist posts on Reddit, 4chan, and similar anonymous platforms in the wake of the January 2021 U.S. Capitol riot

and mass-shooting attacks in which the perpetrators had posted manifestos online, and proposed combining open-source intelligence (OSINT) tools such as Maltego with machine learning to link anonymous accounts to real-world identities. The project drew coverage from Illinois Tech News and Government Technology (GovTech), which reported Dr. Dawson's account of the approach: pairing a military OSINT process with AI/ML automation to move link analysis from a manual, labor-intensive process toward an automated one usable by state and federal investigators, while noting the dual-use ethical risk that the same tooling could be misused for stalking absent government licensing controls.

Kosovo Study Abroad: Enterprise Cybersecurity Program for Three Folders, Pristina, Kosovo

Building on his long-standing Fulbright ties to Kosovo, Dr. Dawson conceived, recruited, and led a five-student Illinois Tech team through a month-long, client-facing applied cybersecurity practicum in Pristina, Kosovo (Summer 2024). The team was engaged by Three Folders, a Kosovar marketing company, to design and stand up an enterprise-grade cybersecurity program from the ground up. As faculty director of the engagement, Dr. Dawson set its scope and standards, organized the student team into functional work streams, reviewed and approved every client-facing deliverable, and served as the principal point of contact with company leadership, all while navigating Kosovo/EU legal and ethical constraints throughout a live consulting engagement. This gave students direct, supervised experience with the project-management, client-communication, and quality-assurance demands of professional cybersecurity consulting under real organizational stakes.

Under Dr. Dawson's leadership, the team produced and delivered a complete, standards-based cybersecurity program comprising five interlocking components:

- **Business Continuity Plan** - a four-phase recovery strategy (Disaster Occurrence, Plan Activation, Alternate Site Operations, and Transition to Primary Operations) with defined Business Continuity Coordinator, Communications, Administration, Emergency Response, and IT Recovery Team roles, emergency notification procedures, and phase-by-phase recovery activities and tasks.
- **IT Disaster Recovery Plan** - a three-phase IT DRP (Activation and Notification, Recovery, and Reconstitution) built around defined Recovery Point Objective (RPO) and Recovery Time Objective (RTO) tiers spanning highly critical banking/customer records, semi-critical server and chat-log data, business/sales/marketing data, and HR/purchasing data, with outage-assessment criteria, notification call trees, and formal plan-attestation and annual-testing requirements.
- **Access Control Policy** - a role-based access control (RBAC) framework mapped directly to the NIST SP 800-53 Access Control (AC) control family at the Low baseline (AC-1 through AC-20, covering Access Control Policy and Procedures, Account Management, Access Enforcement, Information Flow Enforcement, Separation of Duties, Least Privilege, Unsuccessful Logon Attempts, System Use Notification, Session Lock/Termination, Remote and Wireless Access, Mobile Device Access Control, and Use of External Information Systems); an eight-phase Zero Trust Architecture implementation roadmap (Planning and Assessment through Documentation and Reporting, built on “never trust, always verify” and least-privilege principles); and an automated user-access lifecycle (provisioning, access management, and de-provisioning) integrated with identity and access management (IAM) tooling.
- **Data Encryption Plan** - a data-at-rest, data-in-transit, and data-integrity encryption program covering personal computers, local networks, and internet-facing communications.
- **Cybersecurity Awareness Program** - an employee training curriculum covering phishing, malware, and tailgating/social-engineering threats, tied to measurable organizational benefits (safe-practice adoption, breach-cost avoidance, and regulatory compliance) and built around a Google Mandiant Academy course pathway.

Under Dr. Dawson's technical direction, the team also specified and configured the underlying security stack: Okta for identity and access management (single sign-on, multi-factor authentication, and automated user provisioning/de-provisioning); CrowdStrike Falcon (Prevent, Insight, and OverWatch modules) for next-generation endpoint detection and response; VeraCrypt (AES, Serpent, and Twofish) for full-disk and removable-media encryption; 7-Zip with AES-256 archive encryption for secure file transfer; Mozilla Thunderbird with OpenPGP for end-to-end encrypted, digitally signed email; OpenVPN for TLS-encrypted remote access; and AWS-hosted MySQL/RDS secured with SSL/TLS, VPC network isolation, security groups and network ACLs, and AWS CloudTrail/CloudWatch logging for auditing and compliance.

Illinois Tech News profiled the practicum through the experience of one participating student, who credited the program with preparing her for doctoral study in cyber forensics. The engagement gave Dr. Dawson's students end-to-end ownership of a real organizational cybersecurity transformation - from policy authorship and standards mapping through technical implementation planning - under his direct faculty leadership, client accountability, and quality control, and stands as one of the most substantive applied, student-led consulting engagements in the Center's project portfolio.

Critical Infrastructure Research Partnership: Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS)

Extending his Kosovo engagement from applied practicum into sustained research collaboration, Dr. Dawson directed a year-long (2024–2025) research partnership between Illinois Tech doctoral students and the Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS/QKSS) examining cybersecurity risk and resilience across Kosovo's critical infrastructure sectors. KCSS is an independent, non-governmental policy research center founded in Prishtina in April 2008 and is the leading Western Balkans think tank dedicated to security-sector development and reform; it promotes good governance, integrity, and institutional resilience, and has built and offered alternative expertise in security studies in a country with otherwise limited academic capacity in the field. KCSS publishes dozens of research reports, policy analyses, and policy briefs each year and convenes more than 200 public events - conferences, round-tables, debates, and trainings - annually across Kosovo and the wider region, in collaboration with regional and international partners including the European Commission (qkss.org/en).

Partnering with a center of this standing gave the project direct access to Kosovo's security-policy community and practitioner networks, extending the research's reach and policy relevance well beyond a conventional academic collaboration. Under Dr. Dawson's direction, the project examined cybersecurity threats and resilience gaps across Kosovo's energy, telecommunications, and public-administration infrastructure and situated its findings within his broader critical-infrastructure cybersecurity research line, building on Dawson, Bacias, Gouveia, & Vassilakos (2021), *Understanding the Challenge of Cybersecurity in Critical Infrastructure Sectors*, Land Forces Academy Review. The partnership reinforced Illinois Tech's academic footprint in the Western Balkans, complemented Dr. Dawson's 2023 Fulbright Scholar Specialist award at Kolegji AAB, Kosovo, and extended C²SAFE's international capacity-building portfolio into direct collaboration with a national security-policy research institution.

SecureAI Applied Concentration: NSA-Aligned Cybersecurity-and-AI Curriculum

Dr. Dawson conceived, and directed the design and validation of, a new four-course SecureAI applied concentration embedded within Illinois Tech's undergraduate and graduate cybersecurity programs (ITMS 458/548 and successor courses), aligned with NSA/NCAE-C SecureAI Knowledge Units and pursuing NSA CyberAI Program of Study validation - formal recognition, alongside the Center's existing CAE-CDE designation, that the curriculum meets national standards for securing AI systems across their lifecycle (adversarial machine learning, model integrity, secure deployment, and AI governance). The concentration and its design rationale are documented in Dawson, Ayed, Quaye, & Khan (2026, *Education Sciences*), which the CyberSeek workforce data cited in the paper frames against a persistent U.S. cybersecurity workforce shortfall (over 20,000 unfilled DoD cyber positions) and a national push, led by the NSA and NSF, to treat AI security as a distinct educational priority.

AI and Psychological Operations: Information Warfare Research

Dr. Dawson's research also extends into AI-enabled information operations. Dawson, Khan, & Nartey (2025, Journal of Military Studies, published by Finland's National Defense University) traces the evolution of psychological warfare from World War II to present-day disinformation campaigns and argues that AI-driven tools - deepfakes, sentiment analysis, and automated influence operations - mark a strategic inflection point requiring a coherent, ethically grounded doctrine for liberal democracies.

Virtual Internship in Cyber Defense (Elevate)

Dr. Dawson created a virtual internship in cyber defense using the Elevate platform, powered by Cisco (2021–2023). The program became the largest and fastest-growing program of its kind within two years, enrolling more than 500 students, including participants from more than 10 countries outside the United States, among them India, China, Ethiopia, and Nigeria.

Online Course Development: Coursera and Risepoint

Dr. Dawson has extended C²SAFE's cybersecurity curriculum into large-scale online delivery. He developed and teaches Cyber Security Technologies on Coursera under the Illinois Tech partner channel, making foundational cybersecurity instruction available to a global learner base outside the traditional classroom. He also led curriculum design for Illinois Tech's fully online Master of Applied Science in Cybersecurity tracks (Cybersecurity Management, Cybersecurity Technology, and Computer Engineering), launched in partnership with the online program manager Risepoint to expand access for working professionals.

SERVICE STATEMENT

Dr. Dawson's service spans center-level administration (Director, C²SAFE, including a 30+ organization partner network spanning industry, government, law enforcement, higher education, and professional societies), NSA CAE Point of Contact duties for Illinois Institute of Technology, program-level governance (Steering Committee Lead, Interdisciplinary Master of Cyber Security Program), editorial leadership (founding Editor-in-Chief of IJHIoT; current guest editor of three MDPI journal special issues), professional-society leadership (Past President, MWAIS), AACSB International accreditation committee service (University of Missouri–St. Louis and Alabama A&M University), and university governance (tenure, sabbatical, presidential search, and faculty council committees). He is regularly consulted by national and international media (ABC7 Chicago, Chicago Tribune, WBEZ, Security Magazine) on cybersecurity matters and has delivered invited talks and keynotes in the United States, Kosovo, Tunisia, Vietnam, Nigeria, and Fiji since 2024.

CITATION METRICS AND JOURNAL QUARTILE SUMMARY

The following metrics are presented for transparency and to support independent verification by the committee. Figures are drawn from Google Scholar and from direct verification against SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)/Scopus quartile data conducted in connection with this CV update.

Google Scholar Citation Growth

Metric	At 2023 Tenure Review	Current (Mid-2026)	Change
Total Citations	1,056	2,000	+89%
h-index	17	22	+5
i10-index	34	56	+22

Verified Journal Rankings - Dual System (JCR and SJR)

Two distinct, independent quartile systems are in standard use, and they are reported here side by side because they can legitimately diverge for the same journal: JCR (Journal Citation Reports, Clarivate, based on Web of Science) and SJR (SCImago Journal Rank, based on Scopus). A journal's JCR and SJR quartiles are calculated from different citation databases and different methodologies, so disagreement between the two is a known, normal occurrence - not an error in either source.

Journal	JCR Quartile	SJR Quartile	Years Published
SAGE Open	Q1	Q1 / Q2	2015
Business Information Review	Not WoS-indexed	Q2 / Q3	2018
E-Learning and Digital Media	Q1	Q3	2016
Algorithms (MDPI)	Q2	Q1 / Q2	2024
Applied Sciences (MDPI)	Q1–Q3 (varies)	Q1 / Q2	2025
Systems (MDPI)	Q1	Q2	2026
Education Sciences (MDPI)	Q1	Q2	2026
Int'l J. Project Org. & Mgmt.	Not WoS-indexed	Q4	2011
Land Forces Academy Review	Not WoS-indexed	Not Scopus-ranked	2018–2025

Three journals - E-Learning and Digital Media, Systems, and Education Sciences - are JCR Q1 but SJR Q2–Q3, a confirmed divergence between the two systems. Two journals (Business Information Review and International Journal of Project Organisation and Management) are Scopus-indexed with an SJR quartile but are not indexed in Web of Science and therefore have no JCR quartile at all. Land Forces Academy Review and several regional/IGI Global venues used earlier in the publication record are not ranked under either system.

Quartile-Ranked Conference Proceedings

The Springer book series Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing (AISC), which hosted the Information Technology–New Generations (ITNG) conference proceedings, carried an SJR quartile of Q4 (Computer Science, miscellaneous; Control and Systems Engineering) until Scopus discontinued tracking the series in 2021. Dr. Dawson published 9 proceedings papers in this series between 2017 and 2020.

Procedia Computer Science is reported separately because it is quartile-ranked under a third system. Elsevier publishes it as an open-access conference-proceedings series rather than as a conventional research journal, and SCImago does not assign SJR quartiles to conference proceedings, only to journals and book series. Scopus CiteScore, however, does rank proceedings series alongside journals, book series, and trade publications, and under that system Procedia Computer Science carries a 2025 CiteScore of 3.9, placing it in Q2 of Computer Science (all) at approximately the 57th percentile, ranked 103 of 241 sources. The prior 2024 metrics also placed it in Q2, with a CiteScore of 4.1. The series is indexed in Scopus, the Web of Science Conference Proceedings Citation Index – Science (CPCI-S), INSPEC, and Engineering Village; because its Web of Science coverage runs through CPCI-S rather than the Science Citation Index Expanded, it carries no Clarivate Journal Impact Factor and no JCR quartile. Dr. Dawson's three articles in this series are accordingly reported as Q2 Scopus-indexed conference proceedings articles rather than as Q2 journal articles, and are counted in the proceedings totals below rather than in the journal totals above.

The remaining conference venues used (IEEE EDUCON, IEEE WEEF/GEDC, International Conference KNOWLEDGE-BASED ORGANIZATION) are Scopus-indexed with citation metrics but are classified by SCImago as conference proceedings rather than journals or book series and carry no quartile under either the JCR or the SJR system.

Quartile-Ranked Output Totals

Because the three ranking systems in use cover different venue types, totals are reported by system and by venue type rather than as a single aggregate figure. Counting the Procedia Computer Science articles as journal articles would overstate the journal total and understate the proceedings total, so they appear once, in the proceedings line.

Category	Ranking system	Quartile	Count
Journal venues carrying a JCR quartile	JCR (Clarivate / Web of Science)	Q1–Q2	6 venues
Journal venues carrying an SJR quartile	SJR (SCImago / Scopus)	Q1–Q4	8 venues
Journal venue ranked by CiteScore only — Encyclopedia (MDPI)	Scopus CiteScore 10.1	Q1	1 venue
Proceedings series carrying a CiteScore quartile — Procedia Computer Science (Elsevier)	Scopus CiteScore 3.9	Q2	3 articles, 44 citations
Proceedings series formerly SJR-ranked — Springer AISC / ITNG	SJR (discontinued 2021)	Q4	9 papers
Scopus-indexed proceedings with no quartile assigned — IEEE EDUCON, IEEE WEEF/GEDC, KBO	None assigned	—	—

Counted this way, quartile-ranked output comprises journal articles in venues ranked under JCR, SJR, or Scopus CiteScore, plus twelve quartile-ranked conference proceedings articles: three Q2 articles in Procedia Computer Science and nine Q4 papers in the Springer AISC series. The Procedia articles carry 44 Google Scholar citations combined and are the only proceedings output in the record that currently holds a live quartile assignment, the AISC series having been discontinued by Scopus in 2021.

Most-Cited Works

Per Google Scholar, Dr. Dawson's two most-cited works to date are:

- Markevych, M., & Dawson, M. (2023). A Review of Enhancing Intrusion Detection Systems for Cybersecurity Using Artificial Intelligence (AI). International Conference Knowledge-Based Organization, 29(3), 30–37. - 143 citations.
- Dawson, M., Burrell, D., Rahim, E., & Brewster, S. (2010). Integrating Software Assurance into the Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC). Journal of Information Systems Technology and Planning, 3(6), 49–53. - 140 citations.

ScholarGPS Comparative Ranking

As an independent cross-check on the Google Scholar figures above, ScholarGPS - which ranks scholars against all others worldwide in the same field using a weighted, lifetime, no-self-citation methodology - places Dr. Dawson in the following percentile bands (2025 evaluation period; 105 total publications; 1,000 total predicted citations; overall predicted h-index of 16):

- Overall (All Fields) - top 1.21% of 29,161,103 ranked scholars worldwide by publication productivity; top 5.78% by citation impact.

- Engineering - top 1.51% of 4,364,689 ranked scholars by publication productivity; top 6.42% by citation impact.
- Computer Science - top 1.61% of 791,920 ranked scholars by publication productivity; top 6.09% by citation impact.
- Specialty areas - by publication productivity, Dr. Dawson ranks in the top 0.09% of 37,626 scholars worldwide in “New Generation” and the top 0.82% of 797 scholars in “Digital Crimes,” the latter also carrying the highest percentile h-index in his profile (top 0.13% worldwide in that specialty). By citation impact, he ranks in the top 6.39% for “New Generation” and top 7.34% for “Internet.”

Figures verified directly against ScholarGPS.com and Google Scholar

(scholar.google.com/citations?user=i7acQcEAAAAJ) as of July 2026. Because ScholarGPS applies a distinct weighting and self-citation-exclusion methodology, its totals (publications, citations, h-index) are not directly comparable to the raw Google Scholar counts reported above; both are presented for transparency and independent verification by the committee.

PUBLICATIONS

Selected Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles Since Joining Illinois Tech (2018–Present)

- Dawson, M., & Quaye, S. (2026). Training Doctoral Researchers for Applied Computing Research: Design Science and Action Research in International Contexts. *Encyclopedia*, 6(3), 70. [Encyclopedia - Scopus-indexed; CiteScore 10.1; Q1 Multidisciplinary]
- Dawson, M., Ayed, A. B., Quaye, S., & Khan, A. H. (2026). Designing SecureAI Curriculum for National Security Needs: The Illinois Tech Program of Study. *Education Sciences*, 16(2), 310. [JCR Q1 / SJR Q2]
- Quaye, S., Dawson, M., & Ayed, A. B. (2026). IRAS-SDLC: Lifecycle Risk Aggregation for Secure AI-Augmented Software Assurance Under RMF and Zero Trust. *Systems*, 14(5), 546. [JCR Q1 / SJR Q2]
- Dawson, M., Khan, A. H., & Nartey, C. (2025). Weaponising the mind: AI, cyberspace and the future of psychological operations. *Journal of Military Studies*, 0(0).
- Quaye, S., Khan, A. H., Tapre, K., & Dawson, M. (2025). AI-Powered Cybersecurity Models for Training and Testing IoT Devices. *Applied Sciences*, 15(24), 13073. [JCR Q1–Q3 / SJR Q1–Q2]
- Dawson, M., & Khan, A. H. (2025). Cyber Defense of Space Systems: Taxonomy of Vulnerabilities and Framework for Resilient Infrastructure. *Land Forces Academy Review*, 30(3), 454–465. [Unranked - no JCR or SJR]
- Cárdenas-Haro, J. A., Salem, M., Aldaco-Gastélum, A. N., López-Avitia, R., & Dawson, M. (2024). Enhancing Security in Social Networks through Machine Learning: Detecting and Mitigating Sybil Attacks with SybilSocNet. *Algorithms*, 17(10), 442. [JCR Q2 / SJR Q1–Q2]
- Sarefo, S. M., Dawson, M. E., & Mphago, B. (2024). Analysis of the Cybersecurity Threats in Botswana Using Publicly Available Data. *International Journal of ICT Research in Africa and the Middle East*, 13(1), 1–13. [Unranked - no JCR or SJR]
- Dawson, M. (2022). An Argument for Cybersecurity in Saudi Arabia. *Land Forces Academy Review*, 27(1), 78–83. [Unranked - no JCR or SJR]
- Burrell, D. N., Sabie-Aridi, A. S., Shufutinsky, A., Wright, J. B., Nobles, C., & Dawson, M. (2022). Exploring Holistic Managerial Thinking to Better Manage Healthcare Cybersecurity. *International Journal of Health Systems and Translational Medicine*, 2(1), 1–13. [Unranked - no JCR or SJR]
- Dawson, M. (2021). Cybersecurity Impacts for Artificial Intelligence use within Industry 4.0. *Scientific Bulletin*, 26(1), 24–31. [Unranked - no JCR or SJR]
- Dawson, M., Bacius, R., Gouveia, L. B., & Vassilakos, A. (2021). Understanding the Challenge of Cybersecurity in Critical Infrastructure Sectors. *Land Forces Academy Review*, 26(1), 69–75. [Unranked - no JCR or SJR]

- Burrell, D. N., Burton, S. L., Nobles, C., Dawson, M. E., & McDowell, T. (2020). Exploring technological management innovations that include artificial intelligence and other innovations in global food production. *International Journal of Society Systems Science*, 12(4), 267–285. [Unranked - no JCR or SJR]
- Dawson, M. (2020). National Cybersecurity Education: Bridging Defense to Offense. *Land Forces Academy Review*, 25(1), 68–75. [Unranked - no JCR or SJR]
- Dawson, M. (2018). Cyber Security in Industry 4.0: The Pitfalls of Having Hyperconnected Systems. *Journal of Strategic Management Studies*, 10(1), 19–28. [Unranked - no JCR or SJR]
- Dawson, M. (2018). Applying a Holistic Cyber Security Framework for Global IT Organizations. *Business Information Review*, 35(2), 60–67. [No JCR (not WoS-indexed) / SJR Q2–Q3]

Additional 2018–2023 journal and conference articles (24 entries - IGI Global, Springer ITNG/AISC, and regional venues) and the complete pre-2018 publication record (84 entries, 2010–2018) are maintained in the full bibliography available upon request in the full document.

Peer-Reviewed Articles in a Scopus Q2 Proceedings Series (Procedia Computer Science)

These three articles are peer-reviewed and Scopus-indexed and are listed here for completeness, but they are classified as conference proceedings articles rather than journal articles, because Elsevier publishes *Procedia Computer Science* as an open-access conference-proceedings series. The series is indexed in Scopus, Web of Science CPCI-S, INSPEC, and Engineering Village, and carries a 2025 Scopus CiteScore of 3.9, Q2 in Computer Science (all), at approximately the 57th percentile. It has no Clarivate Journal Impact Factor and no JCR quartile. These entries are counted in the proceedings totals and are not included in the journal article totals.

- Sarefo, S., Dawson, M., & Banyatsang, M. (2023). An Exploratory Analysis of the Cybersecurity Threat Landscape for Botswana. *Procedia Computer Science*. [13 citations]
- Sarefo, S., Banyatsang, M., & Dawson, M. (2023). An Analysis of Botswana's Cybercrime Legislation. *Procedia Computer Science*. [9 citations]
- Dawson, M., Taveras, P., & Taylor, D. (2019). Applying Software Assurance and Cybersecurity NICE Job Tasks through Secure Software Engineering Labs. *Procedia Computer Science*, 164(C), 301–312. [22 citations]

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The following comprehensive list of conference proceedings papers is compiled from Dr. Dawson's Google Scholar profile (scholar.google.com/citations?user=i7acQcEAAAAJ, sorted by publication date, as of July 2026) and cross-checked against ORCID (0000-0003-4609-3444). Entries are presented separately from journal articles (see Publications, above) because conference proceedings are not assigned JCR or SJR journal quartiles (see Citation Metrics). Scopus CiteScore does assign quartiles to proceedings series, and the three *Procedia Computer Science* entries below are annotated accordingly as Q2 Scopus-indexed proceedings articles. Citation counts, where shown, are per Google Scholar. Journal articles, edited books, and book chapters that also appear on Google Scholar are excluded here and reported in their respective sections above; a small number of Google Scholar entries with incomplete or unverifiable venue metadata (theses, working papers, web posts) are omitted from this list.

2011

- Dawson, M. (2011). Applicability of Web 2.0: Training for Tactical Military Applications. *Proceedings of Global TIME 2011*, 395–398. [8 citations]
- Dawson, M., Burrell, D., & Emanuel, W. (2011). Utilization of E-Learning Tools, Virtual Machines, & Open Source Software to Enhance Graduate Systems Engineering Programs. *Global Learn*, 2088–2091. [8 citations]

- Dawson, M., & McDaniel, L. (2011). Increasing Involvement in the Systems Development Group. Allied Academies International Internet Conference, 13, 75.

2012

- Dawson, M., & Al Saeed, I. (2012). Enabling Usability & Interaction within the Development of Health Information Technology Systems with Virtual Worlds. Global TIME, 1–4.
- Davis, L., & Dawson, M. (2012). Systems Modeling a Graphic User Interface with Using Virtual Worlds. Academy of Information and Management Sciences Proceedings, 16, 1–6. [4 citations]
- Dawson, M., & Valdez, R. (2012). Innovative Approach to Teaching Architecture & Design with the Utilization of Virtual Simulation Tools. INTED2012 Proceedings, 1913–1918. [2 citations]

2013

- Ramaswamy, G., & Dawson, M. (2013). Discovering the Reason for IT Project Failure. Allied Academies International Conference, Academy of Management Information and Decision Sciences. [6 citations]
- Omar, M., & Dawson, M. (2013). Research in Progress - Defending Android Smartphones from Malware Attacks. 2013 Third International Conference on Advanced Computing and Communication Technologies (ACCT). [27 citations]
- Bessette, D., Brown-Jackson, K., Burton, S., Dawson, M., & Lu, S. (2013). Traditional Practices for Non-Traditional Doctoral Students: Creative Ways for Advantages in the Higher Education Department. ICERI2013 Proceedings, 2908–2911.
- Dawson, M., Wright, J., & Abramson, J. (2013). Open Source Software to Teach Technology Entrepreneurship Concepts and Practices. ICERI2013 Proceedings, 2637–2639.
- Dawson, M., Wright, J., & Abramson, J. (2013). Transforming Information Systems and Computer Science Education with Virtualization. ICERI2013 Proceedings, 2679–2682. [3 citations]
- Dawson, M., Al Saeed, I., Wright, J., & Omar, M. (2013). Technology Enhanced Learning with Open Source Software for Scientists and Engineers. INTED2013 Proceedings, 5583–5589. [16 citations]
- Wright, J., & Dawson, M. (2013). Importance of Integrating Information Technology Related Curriculum in American Inner City Schools. INTED2013 Proceedings, 5666–5672. [3 citations]

2014

- Bessette, D., Burton, S., & Dawson, M. (2014). Flipped Technological Training and Development Using Quality Systems Management in the Public Services Field. EDULEARN14 Proceedings, 2640–2642. [2 citations]

2016

- Dawson, M., DeWalt, B., & Cleveland, S. (2016). The Case for UBUNTU Linux Operating System Performance and Usability for Use in Higher Education in a Virtualized Environment. 2016 Southern Association for Information Systems (SAIS) Conference, 1–7. [6 citations]

2017

- Dawson, M. (2017). Cyber Security Architectural Needs in the Era of Internet of Things and Hyperconnected Systems. 10th Annual International Academy of Strategic Management Conference, 3–6. [2 citations]
- Dawson, M. (2017). Cyber Security Policies for Hyperconnectivity and Internet of Things: A Process for Managing Connectivity. Information Technology: New Generations (ITNG), Springer, 911–914. [9 citations]
- Dawson, M., Lieble, M., & Adeboje, A. (2017). Open Source Intelligence: Performing Data Mining and Link Analysis to Track Terrorist Activities. Information Technology: New Generations (ITNG), Springer, 161–165. [21 citations]

- Eltayeb, M., & Dawson, M. (2017). Understanding User's Acceptance of Personal Cloud Computing: Using the Technology Acceptance Model. *Information Technology: New Generations (ITNG)*, Springer, 448, 3–12. [38 citations]

2018

- Dawson, M. (2018). MWAIS 2018 Event Program Booklet. Proceedings of the 13th Midwest Association for Information Systems Conference.
- Dawson, M., Walker, D., & Moss, A. (2018). Information Technology Use in West African Agriculture – Challenges and Opportunities: A Panel Discussion. 2018 Midwest Association for Information Systems (MWAIS) Conference.
- Dawson, M., Wang, P., & Williams, K. (2018). The Role of CAE-CDE in Cybersecurity Education for Workforce Development. *Information Technology: New Generations (ITNG)*, Springer, 127–132. [17 citations]

2019

- Burrell, D. N., Bhargava, N., Dawson, M., Calvin, N., & Elliott Kemp, R. (2019). Public Policy, Public Health, and Public Leadership Challenges around Law Enforcement Ethics and Whistleblowing in the Age of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement. 2019 International Criminology Conference.
- Dawson, M., Vassilakos, A., & Castanon Remy, J. L. (2019). Investigating American Extremists and Terrorists Activities on Anonymous Internet Social Media Platforms. 2019 International Criminology Conference.
- Dawson, M., Garcia Martinez, F., & Taveras, P. (2019). Framework for the Development of Virtual Labs for Industrial Internet of Things and Hyperconnected Systems. 2019 Learning With MOOCS (LWMOOCS VI). [7 citations]
- Dawson, M., Taveras, P., & Taylor, D. (2019). Applying Software Assurance and Cybersecurity NICE Job Tasks through Secure Software Engineering Labs. *Procedia Computer Science*, 164(C), 301–312. [22 citations] [Elsevier proceedings series; Scopus CiteScore 3.9, Q2 Computer Science (all); WoS CPCI-S indexed]
- Vassilakos, A., Gottlieb, M., & Dawson, M. (2019). Towards Crime Prevention Using Big Data Analytics: A Literature Review with an Explorative Case Study. 2019 Midwest Association for Information Systems (MWAIS) Conference. [2 citations]
- Cardenas-Haro, J. A., & Dawson, M. (2019). Detecting and Preventing File Alterations in the Cloud Using a Distributed Collaborative Approach. *Information Technology: New Generations (ITNG)*, Springer. [1 citation]

2020

- Burrell, D. N., Dawson, M. E., & Nobles, C. (2020). Innovative Doctorate Programs in Cybersecurity, Engineering, and Technology in the USA and UK That Can Be Completed by Professionals Around the World Without Relocation. Proceedings of the International Conference on Research in Management. [1 citation]
- Vassilakos, A., Walker, D., & Dawson, M. (2020). Affordable Mobile Data Collection Platform and IT Training in Benin: Analysis of Performance and Usability. 17th International Conference on Information Technology–New Generations.
- Zarour, M., Alenezi, M., Dawson, M., & Alsmadi, I. (2020). Toward Effective Cybersecurity Education in Saudi Arabia. 17th International Conference on Information Technology–New Generations. [6 citations]
- Dawson, M., Taveras, P., & Detel, C. (2020). Assessment of National Crime Reporting System: Detailed Analysis of the Mobile Application. 17th International Conference on Information Technology–New Generations. [2 citations]
- Dawson, M., Taveras, P., & Galan Berasaluce, D. (2020). Assessment of National Crime Reporting System: Detailed Analysis of Communication. 17th International Conference on Information Technology–New Generations. [1 citation]

- Garcia Martinez, F., Dawson, M., & Taveras, P. (2020). Assessment of National Crime Reporting System: Detailed Analysis of the Desktop Application. 17th International Conference on Information Technology–New Generations.

2021

- Dawson, M., Vassilakos, A., & Ben Ayed, A. (2021). Strengthening University Computing Programs to Meet National Security Needs. 2021 World Engineering Education Forum / Global Engineering Deans Council (WEEF/GEDC). [2 citations]
- Dawson, M., Vassilakos, A., Castanon Remy, J. L., & Setor, T. K. (2021). Illicit Activities Beneath the Surface Web: Investigating Domestic Extremism on Anonymous Social Media Platforms. *HOLISTICA – Journal of Business and Public Administration*, 12(1), 27–40. [7 citations]
- Szakonyi, A., Chellasamy, H., Vassilakos, A., & Dawson, M. (2021). Using Technologies to Uncover Patterns in Human Trafficking. ITNG 2021: 18th International Conference on Information Technology–New Generations. [10 citations]
- Szakonyi, A., Dawson, M., Chellasamy, H., & Vassilakos, A. (2021). Non-Traditional Education to Advance Women in Computing Careers in the St. Louis Metro. *EDUCON – IEEE Global Engineering Education Conference*, 2(1), 1098–1102. [4 citations]

2023

- Jones, R., Omar, M., Mohammed, D., Nobles, C., & Dawson, M. (2023). Harnessing the Speed and Accuracy of Machine Learning to Advance Cybersecurity. 2023 Congress in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, & Applied Computing. [29 citations]
- Jones, R., Omar, M., Mohammed, D., Nobles, C., & Dawson, M. (2023). IoT Malware Detection with GPT Models. 2023 Congress in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, & Applied Computing. [11 citations]
- Markevych, M., & Dawson, M. (2023). A Review of Enhancing Intrusion Detection Systems for Cybersecurity Using Artificial Intelligence (AI). *International Conference KNOWLEDGE-BASED ORGANIZATION*, 29(3), 30–37. [143 citations - Dr. Dawson's most-cited work]
- Sarefo, S., Banyatsang, M., & Dawson, M. (2023). An Analysis of Botswana's Cybercrime Legislation. *Procedia Computer Science*. [9 citations] [Elsevier proceedings series; Scopus CiteScore 3.9, Q2 Computer Science (all); WoS CPCI-S indexed]
- Sarefo, S., Dawson, M., & Banyatsang, M. (2023). An Exploratory Analysis of the Cybersecurity Threat Landscape for Botswana. *Procedia Computer Science*. [13 citations] [Elsevier proceedings series; Scopus CiteScore 3.9, Q2 Computer Science (all); WoS CPCI-S indexed]

2024

- Etori, N., Dawson, M., & Gini, M. (2024). Ethical Evaluation of Human-Robot Interaction. *MWAIS 2024 Proceedings*, 32.
- Etori, N., Dawson, M., & Gini, M. (2024). Double-Edged Sword: Navigating AI Opportunities and the Risk of Digital Colonization in Africa. *MWAIS 2024 Proceedings*, 25. [9 citations]
- Shanbhag, N., Dawson, M., & Etori, N. (2024). Artificial Intelligence's Role in Cybersecurity and Global Dynamics. *MWAIS 2024 Proceedings*, 30. [2 citations]
- Dawson, M., Szakonyi, A., & Walker, D. (2024). Enriching Higher Education: Bridging Borders through International Experiences and ICT Learning. *MWAIS 2024 Proceedings*, 9. [1 citation]
- Szakonyi, A., Chellasamy, H., & Dawson, M. (2024). Russia's Strategies for Leveraging AI Policies and Investments for Global Economic Competitiveness. *MWAIS 2024 Proceedings*, 12. [1 citation]

- Dawson, M. (2024). Integrating Intelligence Paradigms into Cyber Security Curriculum for Advanced Threat Mitigation. ITNG 2024: 21st International Conference on Information Technology–New Generations. [4 citations]
- Dawson, M., & Omotoye, E. (2024). Combining Cyber Security and Data Science: A Cutting-Edge Approach for Public Health Education Masters. ITNG 2024: 21st International Conference on Information Technology–New Generations. [1 citation]

2025

- Zziwa, I., Pawar, H., Nartey, C., & Dawson, M. (2025). Guard: A Guided AI System for Intrusion Detection and Automated Response in Critical Infrastructure Environments. International Conference KNOWLEDGE-BASED ORGANIZATION, 31(1), 219–227. [3 citations]
- Dawson, M., Vassilakos, A., Moore, S., & Szakonyi, A. (2025). Beyond the Mirror: Digital Twin Cybersecurity for National Resilience. International Conference KNOWLEDGE-BASED ORGANIZATION, 31(1), 87–95. [1 citation]
- Soler, R., Dawson, M., & Colina, M. (2025). Automated Target Profiling: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Open-Source Intelligence Collection. International Conference KNOWLEDGE-BASED ORGANIZATION, 31(1), 184–190. [3 citations]
- Nartey, C., Quaye, S., & Dawson, M. (2025). A Case Study on Ghana's Cybersecurity Posture: Strengthening Cybercrime Enforcement and Regional Cooperation in West Africa. 41st International RAIS Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities, 85–96. [1 citation]
- Engel, T., Cenk, G., Andersson, J., & Dawson, M. (2025). Workshop: Leveraging Digital Twins in Information Systems. MWAIS 2025 Proceedings.

2026

- Dawson, M., Quaye, S., & Chakraborty, H. (2026). Artificial Intelligence and Irregular Warfare: Strategic Governance and Institutional Integration. International Conference KNOWLEDGE-BASED ORGANIZATION, 32(3), 1–9.
- Quaye, S., Dawson, M., & Hoxha, E. (2026). A Taxonomy of Intelligent Intrusion Detection Systems for Cybersecurity Using Large Language Models and Agent-Based Artificial Intelligence. International Conference KNOWLEDGE-BASED ORGANIZATION, 32(3), 1–11.
- Bhosale, S., Quaye, S., & Dawson, M. (2026). Enterprise GRC Platform: A Two-Stage Risk Scoring Model with AI-Assisted Risk Identification and Audit Workflow Integration. International Conference KNOWLEDGE-BASED ORGANIZATION, 32(1), 1–8.
- Pakshad, P., Dawson, M., Hoxha, E., & Khan, A. H. (2026). LLM-Based Analysis for Discovering Cybersecurity Patterns in Public Administration Cyber Events. International Conference KNOWLEDGE-BASED ORGANIZATION, 32(1), 1–10.
- Wells, A. R., Dawson, M. E., Adewuyi, P. A., Williams, T. T. T., Bruce, D., & Quaye, S. (2026). Mitigating Cybersecurity Risks in Legacy Healthcare Systems: Policy, Technology, and Response Strategies for Critical Infrastructure. InSITE 2026: Informing Science + IT Education Conferences, Silicon Valley, 32.
- Dawson, M., Ben Ayed, A., & Quaye, S. (2026). Artificial Intelligence and the Crisis of Truth: Battling Misinformation and Disinformation in the Digital Age. International Conference on Information Technology–New Generations (ITNG 2026).

Journal articles, edited books, book chapters, dissertations, working papers, and web-published items that also appear on Google Scholar are not repeated here; they are catalogued in Publications, Books Edited, and Recent Book Chapters and Proceedings, above, or in the full departmental bibliography.

Books Edited

- Jha, S., Solanki, V. K., & Dawson, M. (Eds.) (2026). Cognitive Security for Industrial IoT: AI-Driven Approaches to Industry 4.0. CRC Press / Routledge (Internet of Everything: Security and Privacy Paradigm series).
- Nguyen, T. D. L., Dawson, M., Ngoc, L. A., & Lam, K. Y. (Eds.) (2024). Proceedings of the International Conference on Intelligent Systems and Networks: ICISN 2024. Springer. [Scopus-indexed (Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems series)]
- Dawson, M., Tabona, O., & Maupong, T. (Eds.) (2022). Cybersecurity Capabilities in Developing Nations and Its Impact on Global Security. IGI Global. [Scopus-indexed]
- Dawson, M., Eltayeb, M., & Omar, M. (Eds.) (2017). Security Solutions for Hyperconnectivity and the Internet of Things. IGI Global. [Scopus and ACM Digital Library indexed]
- Dawson, M., Kisku, D. R., Gupta, P., Sing, J. K., & Li, W. (Eds.) (2017). Developing Next-Generation Countermeasures for Homeland Security Threat Prevention. IGI Global. [Scopus-indexed]
- Dawson, M., & Omar, M. (Eds.) (2015). New Threats and Countermeasures in Digital Crime and Cyber Terrorism. IGI Global. [Indexing not independently confirmed]

Indexing confirmed directly against publisher records (IGI Global indexing panels, ACM Digital Library, and Springer series metadata) as of mid-2026; the 2015 volume's indexing status could not be independently confirmed by the same method and is reported as such rather than assumed.

Recent Book Chapters and Proceedings (Selected, 2024–2026)

- Zziwa, I., Ilolo, A., Dawson, M., & Serwadda, B. (2025). Regulating Emerging Technologies: Establishing Ethical and Legal Frameworks in East Africa. In Analyzing Privacy and Security Difficulties in Social Media. IGI Global Scientific Publishing.
- Dawson, M., & Omotoye, E. (2024). Combining Cyber Security and Data Science: A Cutting-Edge Approach for Public Health Education Masters. International Conference on Information Technology–New Generations. Springer.
- Dawson, M. (2024). Integrating Intelligence Paradigms into Cyber Security Curriculum for Advanced Threat Mitigation. International Conference on Information Technology–New Generations. Springer.
- Etori, N. A., Dawson, M., & Gini, M. (2024). Double-edged sword: Navigating AI opportunities and the risk of digital colonization in Africa. MWAIS 2024 Proceedings.

Full chapter and proceedings list (49 chapters, 84 proceedings papers, 2010–2026) available upon request in full document.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

Fulbright Awards

Year	Program / Project	Host Country	Amount
2027	Fulbright Scholar Core Project 261106-KE (declined)	Kenya	\$42,000
2025	Fulbright Scholar Specialist, FSP-P009936	Tunisia	\$3,200
2024	USAID Visitor Speaker Program	Fiji	\$10,000
2023	Fulbright Scholar Specialist, FSP-P007726	Kosovo	\$3,200
2020–2021	Fulbright Scholar Core Project 10500-BC	Botswana	\$42,200
2017–2018	Fulbright Scholar Specialist, FSP-P000654	Saudi Arabia	\$19,980

2014	Fulbright Scholar Specialist, Project #5824	Russia	\$7,280.60
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Additional USAID-funded volunteer assignments and International Studies & Programs fellowships (Senegal, Ethiopia, Dominican Republic, Guinea, Gambia; combined approx. \$25,000–\$45,000, 2014–2018) available upon request in full document.

Independent higher-education consulting engagements (1099 contractor, combined value \$70,000+): Thomas Edison State University (2012–2014, four-course MBA in Data Analytics program), Colorado State University Global Campus (2014, ABET evaluation review), and Southern University Shreveport (2018, Information Systems degree program).

Institutional and Foundation Grants (Illinois Institute of Technology)

Role	Funder	Award / Period	Details
Co-PI	Motorola Solutions Foundation	Awarded 2023; Period of Performance 2023–2024; \$1,000,000	Conducted in partnership with Kaplan. Funded development of GUARD, an AI-driven intrusion detection system (IDS); creation of a mobile cyber software lab; and creation and launch of an IPRO course in cybersecurity entrepreneurship, in which students developed products and created services.
PI	U.S. Department of State	2018–2020 (2-year); \$50,000	Awarded during Dr. Dawson's tenure at Illinois Institute of Technology.

SUPERVISED USAID ICT ASSIGNMENTS

Dr. Dawson supervised the following student volunteer assignments with Winrock International/USAID, each carrying a \$5,000 award to the assigned student.

Period / Amount	Title & Assignment No.	Location	Student
May–June 2018 \$5,000.00	TOT on Website & Database Development and Management, Kaffrine Region - SEN240	Birkilane and Kaffrine, Senegal	Damon Walker (Graduate)
July–August 2017 \$5,000.00	Agriculture Technical High School Emile Badiane of Bignona (LTAEB) - SEN207	Bignona, Senegal	Ashley Moss (Undergraduate)
June 2017 \$5,000.00	Training of Trainers in Computer Information Systems for Extension Agents - GUI164	Conakry, Guinea	Damon Walker (Undergraduate)
June 2017 \$5,000.00	Training of Trainers in Computer Information Systems & Information Technology in Agriculture Schools - GUI165	Dabola, Guinea	Omar Salif (Undergraduate)
November–December 2016 \$5,000.00	Agriculture Programs Software Training for the Institut Supérieur Agronomique et Vétérinaire de Faranah (ISAV/F) and Students - AEMIP063-AET	Faranah, Guinea	Dan Redden (Graduate)

HONORS, AWARDS, AND DISTINCTIONS

- Fulbright Scholar Specialist & Scholar Grantee - 2014, 2017, 2018, 2021, 2023, 2025, 2027 - declined (seven awards).
- U.S. Department of State, U.S. Speaker Program - 2023.
- USAID Visitor Speaker Program - 2024.
- Senior Member, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) - elevated 2017.
- Teaching Award, College of Computing, Illinois Institute of Technology - Spring 2021.
- Education Excellence Award, School of Applied Technology, Illinois Institute of Technology - Spring 2019.
- List of 40 Under 40 in Cybersecurity, Cybersecurity Magazine - 2022.
- List of 2022 Cyber Ambassador of Diversity, People in Cyber by Seccuri.
- Top 50 African Americans in Tech, Journal of Black Innovation - 2021.
- Researchers to Know 2021 (Data for Good), Illinois Science & Technology Coalition.
- United States Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal - 2005.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Cyber Crime Intelligence Analyst, National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) - 2022.
- Certified Cyber Crime Examiner, National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) - 2022.
- Certified Chief Information Security Officer (C|CISO), EC-Council - 2008.
- Certified Data Privacy Solutions Engineer (CDPSE), ISACA - 2020.
- Certified Secure Software Lifecycle Professional (CSSLP), (ISC)² - 2008.
- Certified in the Governance of Enterprise IT (CGEIT), ISACA - 2011.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY AFFILIATIONS

- Senior Member, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) - 2015–present.
- Past President, Midwest Association for Information Systems (MWAIS) - 2016–present.
- Member, Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa - 2017–present.
- Member, Fulbright Specialist Program Alumni - 2015–present.
- Member, Sigma Xi - 2013–present.
- Member, International Information System Security Certification Consortium - 2008–present.

SELECTED TALKS AND KEYNOTES (2024–2026)

- Cyber security in the Age of AI - Belize, May 2026
- Uncharted Echoes, Unexpected Connections - TEDx Illinois Tech, May 2025.
- Cyber Security and Artificial Intelligence - Port Harcourt Tech Expo 2024.
- Cyber Security and Artificial Intelligence - ChiCyberCon 2024.

Full talks and keynotes record (2010–2026, 30 entries) available upon request in full document.