

August 23, 2013

Cyber Security Awareness Symposium co-hosted by Moraine Valley

Between cyber bullies and a multitude of scams, the Internet can be a dangerous place. That's why a few organizations, including Moraine Valley Community College and its' Center for Systems Security and Information Assurance (CSSIA), are sponsoring a free Security Awareness Symposium on Friday, Sept. 6, 6-9 p.m., in the gym hall at St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, 6330 W. 127th St., in Palos Heights.

This event aims to bring parents, teachers and the community together to better understand ways to protect children from cyber space. Topics include online bullying; how Facebook influences teens and young adults; self-identity and self-esteem; effects of social media on relationships and friendships; changes to online privacy; Facebook addiction; emotional manipulators on Facebook; and juvenile financial ID theft.

There will be a panel discussion, guest speaker Moraine Valley police Chief Pat O'Connor, as well as keynote speaker Dr. Suzana Flores. Flores authored "Am I My Profile Pic," due out in 2014, and will present a step-by-step guide on identifying and avoiding dangerous situations on social media.

"These types of events are important to our community so that school officials, parents and community leaders understand the pressures and threats our children are exposed to in today's social media society," said Dr. John Sands, Moraine Valley professor of Information Technology and co-principle investigator of the CSSIA NSF Regional Center. "The opportunity to have Dr. Flores share her knowledge, experience and recommendations will help us keep our kids safer."

Ice cream, cookies and drinks will be provided by Coldstone Creamery and the Fuheis American Association (FAA). In addition to Moraine Valley, the event also is co-hosted by Northwestern University, Robert Morris University and the FAA.

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