The HI-TEC Educator of the Year Award was presented on July 23rd, 2013 at the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (HI-TEC) in Austin, TX. This year’s recipient was Erich Spengler, Principal Investigator of CSSIA (National Center for Systems Security & Information Assurance) at Moraine Valley Community College.

Erich Spengler has been a national leader in building and expanding educational programs in cyber security. His tireless effort, imagination, and enthusiasm have helped to develop a generation of cyber warriors across the country. Erich has served on almost every major board and workgroup addressing the growing need for cyber security professionals in the United States. He has testified before the U.S. Congress, contributed to the development of the NIST NICE framework, and contributed greatly to the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition. Under Erich’s leadership, the National Security Agency named Moraine Valley Community College as one of the first five Centers for Academic Excellence in Two-Year colleges (CAE2Y).

Erich wears many hats as the principal investigator of CSSIA. First and foremost, Erich provides leadership and innovation. He has assembled a successful and enthusiastic team that has established a national reputation in training, curriculum development, and outreach in helping community colleges build cyber security programs. Erich has developed virtual teaching and learning environments that
have been adopted around the world. Erich is a recognized master teacher. He holds numerous industry certifications and has taught dozens of train-the-trainer workshops.

Erich works tirelessly to keep Moraine Valley at the national forefront of cyber security. He works with top corporate and federal officials. His name is recognized in hundreds of colleges across the country. But his crowning achievement is that he never loses his passion for teaching, and he never loses his humility. No matter how busy Erich is, he always finds time to teach. And no matter how many awards and accolades are received by CSSIA, he always attributes those achievements to his team and colleagues.

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