Submitting a Proposal for the 2024 NICE Conference and Expo

The NICE 2023-24 planning committee is seeking timely, topical, and thought-provoking presentations for the annual conference and expo. The conference is an opportunity to bring together employers of cybersecurity practitioners and representatives from education, training, certification, and workforce development communities to promote collaboration and highlight effective and innovative approaches from industry, government, and academia.

This year's theme, "Strengthening Ecosystems: Aligning Stakeholders to Bridge the Cybersecurity Workforce Gap," highlights the collective effort to strengthen the cybersecurity landscape. By joining forces with key partners, we can foster a more robust cybersecurity ecosystem and drive solutions to bridge the workforce gap.

We encourage proposals from a diverse array of organizations and individuals with different perspectives.

The following considerations will also apply:

- Proposals should attempt to align with the goals and objectives of the NICE Strategic Plan and, where appropriate, consider uses of the NICE Workforce Framework for Cybersecurity (NICE Framework).

- Proposals should also consider effective practices and solutions rather than merely admiring the problem.

- Proposals will be evaluated and selected based on the quality of the written proposal, diversity of topics and presenters, and alignment with the conference theme and tracks.

- Depending on your topic, please consider the best format for your presentation, lectures, panel discussions, demonstrations of concepts or solutions, or interactive forums. Special consideration will be given to proposals that include audience engagement as part of the presentation.

Potential Proposal Topics

This year's conference theme, "Strengthening Ecosystems: Aligning Stakeholders to Bridge the Cybersecurity Workforce Gap," has opened the possibility foster a more robust cybersecurity ecosystem and drive solutions to bridge the workforce gap.

The following are potential topics:

I. Emerging Tech in Cybersecurity Careers

- o Exploring the latest technological advancements and their impact on cybersecurity roles and skills, as well as developing curriculum for emerging technologies and industry demands.

II. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) in Cybersecurity Education
- o Strategies and best practices for promoting diversity and accessibility in cybersecurity education and workforce development.

III. Building a Healthy Cyber Ecosystem
- o Collaborative efforts between academia, industry, international stakeholders, and government to create a robust and sustainable cybersecurity ecosystem.

IV. Creating Entry-Level Pathways

- o Work-based learning opportunities and innovative entry-level pathways for aspiring cybersecurity professionals.

V. Military Transition to Cyber Careers

- o Assisting military personnel in successfully transitioning to cybersecurity roles and utilizing their unique skill sets.

VI. Tapping into Hidden Talent

- o Exploring ways to harness talent from non-traditional backgrounds, the informal economy, and marginalized communities for cybersecurity careers.

VII. Community College Initiatives
- o The role of community colleges in cybersecurity education and their approaches to workforce development.

VIII. Alternative Paths into Cybersecurity
  o Collaborative efforts between academia, industry, international stakeholders, and government to create a robust and sustainable cybersecurity ecosystem.

IX. Retaining Cybersecurity Professionals

  o Effective strategies for retaining talent and reducing turnover in the cybersecurity field.

X. Addressing the Teacher Shortage

  o Innovative solutions to address the shortage of qualified educators in cybersecurity education.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Where will the conference be?
The 2024 NICE Conference & Expo: Strengthening Ecosystems: Aligning Stakeholders to Bridge the Cybersecurity Workforce Gap will take place June 3-5, 2023, at the Sheraton Dallas in Dallas, TX. Speakers areexpected to present their sessions in person. We encourage prospective speakers to submit their proposals with this in mind.

To ensure the comfort and well-being of our attendees, we will be implementing the proper safety guidelines as well as providing an option for our guests to attend the conference virtually.

When will I find out if I have been accepted?
Speakers for all sessions will be notified by the end of March.

How many speaking slots are available?
We anticipate no more than 28 sessions.

How are sessions selected?
A volunteer Planning Committee, comprised of security professionals, technology experts, researchers, government employees, and educators, review all submissions and make selections based on quality of submissions and balance of topics desired to be covered.

Special consideration will be given to proposals that attempt to align with the goals and objectives of the NICE Strategic Plan and, whereappropriate, consider uses of the NICE Workforce Framework for Cybersecurity (NICE Framework).

How do I increase my odds of getting selected?
The NICE Conference values diversity of thought, background, gender, orientation, ethnicity, nationality, and experience—let your unique perspective and expertise shine in what you submit. Well thought out, complete, unique submissions with clear and specific detail will improve your chances of being selected. It is also important that all presentations offer something new. *Do not submit presentations that have been previously shared at other conferences or meetings.*

What are the main reasons my proposal did not get selected?

1. *Incomplete or non-detailed submission.* The session outline and intended learning outcomes portions of the submission are the most important pieces of the entire submission.
2. *Vendor pitch.* Sales pitches are easy to spot, and our Planning Committee quickly eliminates them from consideration.
3. *Multiple submissions.* The Planning Committee seeks to build a diverse program. With limited sessions available, no more than 1 or 2 presentations will likely be selected from the same organization.
4. *Déjà vu.* Presentations that have been on programs for other conferences that precede the NICE Conference are not likely to be considered.
5. *Diversity.* Proposals submitted with little to no consideration for diversity of thought, background, gender, orientation, ethnicity, nationality, and experience will be denied.
6. *Final tip.* The NICE Conference aims to provide timely, topical, and thought-provoking presentations for attendees. We are looking for "new voices", "new ideas" and "innovative" topics that have not been discussed before.

Who can I contact if I have problems submitting my proposal or have not received notification of my acceptance status?

The friendly NICE Conference staff are happy to assist you by email at info@niceconference.org.

Deadlines

The Call for Speakers opens Tuesday, October 10th and will close on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. Submissions received after the relevant closing date will not be reviewed.

Deadline	**Monday, January 22, 2024**

How to Submit

To submit a proposal please visit: **https://go.fiu.edu/2024NICEProposals**

You will have three presentation styles to select from:

1. Breakout Sessions (45 minutes)
2. Pre-Conference Workshop (3.5 hours)
3. Lightning Talk (7 minutes)

Be prepared to submit the following information for **breakout sessions or pre-conference workshop**:

- Presentation Title (maximum of 10 words)
- Session Description (maximum of 150 words)
- Presenter's names, emails, affiliation, and biography (maximum of 75 words for bio and limited to three speakers)
- Intended Audience (maximum of 25 words)
- Intended Learning Outcomes (maximum of 75 words)
- Session Outline (maximum of 75 words)
- Active Learning Activities (maximum of 150 words and only for pre-conference workshop)

Be prepared to submit the following information for a **lightning talk**:

- Presentation Title (maximum of 10 words)
- Session Description (maximum of 150 words)
- Presenter's names, emails, affiliation, and biography (maximum of 75 words for bio and limited to one speaker)
- Intended Audience (maximum of 25 words)
- Session Outline (maximum of 75 words)
- Intended Learning Outcomes (maximum of 75 words)

Please note there is a word limit.