Abstract: Information Assurance (IA) and Cybersecurity have been a national security priority for the U.S. and many other nations. Repeated cyber-attacks, including the most recent hacks into Target and Neiman Marcus, have become harsh realities in today’s world. With such expansive and complex attacks, it remains glaringly obvious that we are acutely under-prepared in dealing with such sophisticated cybercriminals. The impact of such unprecedented incidents are staggering and render a crippling blow to the victim. It is in preparation to detect, prevent, and recover from such attacks that the US government has created program standards to help academic institutions include IA, Cybersecurity, and Digital Forensics into their Curriculum. The primary objective of these program standards is to produce well-trained cyber workforce with the necessary technical skills, awareness, and security consciousness to design and build a secure cyberspace for the future. In my talk, I will discuss three current programs available to institutions of higher education to be recognized and designated as National Centers of Academic Excellence (CAE) – (1) NSA/DHS CAE in IA Education and Research, (2) NSA CAE in Cyber Operations Program, and (3) DoD Centers of Digital Forensics Academic Excellence. During my presentation, I will further emphasize the above and other pressing issues that warrant the need for incorporating IA, Cybersecurity, and Digital Forensics into STEM curriculum. I will also discuss the advantages of seeking CAE designations, particularly focusing on current level of support available from federal law enforcement agencies and business enterprises, new and exclusive funding vehicles available to fuel the program, and most importantly students’ internship opportunities and employment prospects. Concluding remarks in my talk will highlight the benefits of injecting security into both undergraduate and graduate curriculums at Temple University, and how the University’s strategic location in a cyber-driven metro be leveraged to create undergraduate and graduate certificate and corporate training programs in this highly desired domain of IA, Cybersecurity, and Digital Forensics.

Speaker Bio: Dr. Avinash Srinivasan is a faculty member in the Department of Computer Science at George Mason University and serves as the Program Manager for the Education Partnership Agreement with DoD Cyber Crime Center. He earned his B.E. (Industrial Production, 1999) from University of Mysore (India) with Honors and M.S. (Computer Science, 2003) from Pace University, New York with Distinguished Achievement Award for Academic Excellence. He received Ph.D. in Computer Science from Florida Atlantic University in August 2008 and Prof. Jie Wu (IEEE Fellow) was his advisor. Dr. Srinivasan is a recipient of two FAU University-wide prestigious and

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Dr. Srinivasan has over 450 hours of formal training in Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics. He has trained law enforcement officers and civilians in Network Forensics, Macintosh Forensics, and Ethical Hacking & Pen Testing. He has served as a TPC member on over 80 international conferences and workshops, served in various capacities on conference organization committees, and currently serves as an associate editor for the international journal Security and Communication Networks. Dr. Srinivasan is a member of NIST Working Groups on Cloud Computing Forensics Science and Cloud Computing Security.