



NEXUS CYBERCRIME & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2026

APRIL 2, 2026
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS



NEXUS CONFERENCE OFFICERS



Helen Potts, PhD
NEXUS Director



Helen.Potts@unt.edu



Joe Paul
Deputy Conference
Director



Natália Heringer, MA
Academic Program
Director

CISO XC FOUNDERS



Cecil Pineda, CISO
R1 RCM



Jaimin Shah, CISO
Apex Fintech Solutions




CISO
XC
Randy Potts*, CISO
Real Time Resolutions
*Top 100 CISOs in the
US & Canada, 2024
(security current)

Our Mission

NEXUS -Network for Exploring the Intersection of Humans & Cybercrime



NEXUS bolsters an unparalleled intersection of students, cybersecurity professionals, scholars, and industry leaders in the creation of innovative industry-driven research focused uniquely on human and social behavior.

Our mission is to advance synergistic, interdisciplinary, and multifaceted research in cybercrime, cybersecurity, cyberterrorism, analytics, and artificial intelligence, answering cutting-edge challenges with research-driven solutions guided by leading cybersecurity professionals.

Through meaningful networking, mentorship, and knowledge exchange among students, scholars, industry leaders and cybersecurity professionals we strive to cultivate innovation, strengthen collaboration, and drive impactful responses to tomorrows evolving security threats.

Join NEXUS, the forefront of cyber innovation!

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Presented at the CISOXCDFW Conference - Oct. 9, 2025

1. *"Over-Trust vs. Over-Surveillance: The Politics of Loyalty in Modern Organizations"*, Spencer Austin, MA - Doctoral Student in History at SUNY Stonybrook
2. *"Cryptocurrency: Losses & Crimes"*, Jon Browning - Undergraduate Student in Sociology at UNT & Helen Potts, PhD
3. *"Algorithms & Adultization: A Case Study on Digital Risks to Minors"*, Natália Heringer MA - Doctoral Student in Sociology at UNT
4. *"Cybercrime Community: How 'Hanging Out' Online Facilitates Organized Crime"*, River McFarlane - Honors Undergraduate Student in Sociology at UNT
5. *"PTSD/S, Stress, and Burnout in CISOs: The Impact of Strain and Resilience in Cybersecurity"*, Marley Nelson - Honors Undergraduate Student in Sociology at UNT
6. *"Digital Fraud and Aging: Identity Theft, Financial Consequences, and Coping Strategies among Older Americans"*, Momna Rani, M Phil - Doctoral Student in Sociology at UNT & Helen Potts PhD
7. *"Implications of Artificial Intelligence-Based Suicide Prevention: Perceptions of Trust from Private vs. Public Use"* Evan Welch - Undergraduate Student in Sociology at UNT

Presented at the International Organization of Social Sciences and Behavioral Research - March 2025

8. *"Cybercrimes: Cryptocurrency, NFTs, & Generative AI"*, Jon Browning - Undergraduate Student in Sociology at UNT & Helen Potts, PhD * awarded Best Paper at conference



SCHOLARSHIPS

**Endowed scholarship
started by CISO XC in
a \$35,000 donation!**

Join CISO XC supporting undergraduate, master, and doctoral students and faculty in building connections and industry-driven research connecting cybersecurity, AI, analytics, and human behavior.



NEXUS INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL



Randy Potts, CISO
Real Time Resolutions



Joe Paul, Deputy CISO
Choreograph



Jon Brickey, PhD CISO
Mastercard



Royce Markose, CISO
Vistrada



Travis Farral, CISO
Archaea Energy



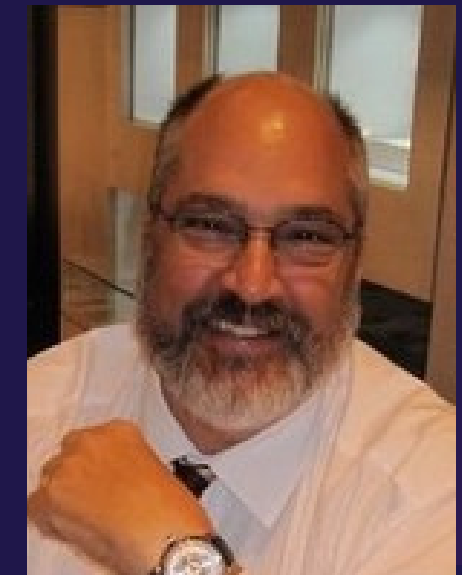
Steve London, IS Leader
Honor Health



Christopher Marks, ISO
Scout Motors



Najm Saqib, ISO
United Airlines



Jay Taylor, IS Advisor
Retired



NEXUS ACADEMIC PARTNERS



Michel Fathi, PhD
Assistant Professor,
Information Technology
& Decision Sciences,
UNT



Melissa Gosdin, PhD
Qualitative Research Analyst,
Center for Healthcare Policy &
Research, UC Davis



Wendy Watson, JD, PhD
Assistant Teaching Professor,
Criminal Justice & Criminology,
Ball State University

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



De'Amber Bullard
Outreach & Testing Supervisor,
Kind Clinic



S.R. Allen
Dallas Police Department

1st NEXUS CYBERCRIME & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR RESEARCH CONFERENCE

- NEXUS Inaugural Conference
- Welcoming students, academics, and cyber professionals
- Opportunities for networking, mentorship, and collaboration
- Topics include (but are not limited to):
 - Analytics & data science
 - Artificial Intelligence & machine learning
 - Criminology - theories, victimology, offender behavior, etc.
 - Cyberbullying, online harassment, doxxing, & deep fakes
 - Cybersecurity - policy, law, & ethics
 - Cybersecurity - education, awareness, & public engagement
 - Cyberterrorism, extremism, & radicalization
 - Global & geopolitical perspectives
 - Law enforcement, cybercrime investigation, & digital forensics
 - Psychology - mental health, behavior, & motivation, etc.
 - Sociology - social behavior, social networks, media, mental health, & norms, etc.



When:

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Where:

Gateway Center

801 N Texas Blvd

The University of North Texas

Denton, TX 76201

Join the forefront of cyber innovation with NEXUS!

INQUIRIES

Our website can be found at
<https://sociology.unt.edu/nexus/nexus.html>
Please reach out to helen.potts@unt.edu and
joe.paul@wppmedia.com for event
information, sponsorship details, logistics, and
other information.

