



cyber innovation center™

annual report

2023





Craig Spohn

Cyber Innovation Center

I have been blessed to witness firsthand this tremendous success and growth for not only the CIC, but the NCRP and region as a whole. It's why I feel comfortable stepping aside to let a new, but familiar set of hands build upon the foundation I helped lay.

The past year saw the Cyber Innovation Center (CIC) continue to spur growth in north Louisiana. CIC and its partners are blessed to have wrapped up year 15 of diversifying the local economy by building a new, knowledge-based industry.

As the anchor of the National Cyber Research Park (NCRP), CIC works with our partners in higher education and industry to build a knowledge-based workforce that improves the quality of life for our region. Since 2011, the NCRP has averaged more than 1,000 jobs per year, brought in more than \$1 Billion for parish residents, and generated more than \$1 Billion in new sales. We celebrated in October the opening of our fourth, and newest, building in the Louisiana Tech Research Institute.

Kevin Nolten will assume the president's role at the start of 2024. Prior to serving as CIC vice president, Kevin served as director of CYBER.ORG and has more than 15 years in non-profit management experience. Kevin, a native of northwest Louisiana, has spent his entire career in education, training, and workforce development with a variety of focus areas to include K-12 and Higher Education. His expertise in workforce development has been sought after by both state and federal governments to advance cybersecurity knowledge and economic development.

I have worked closely with Kevin for more than a decade, and I know his passion for our mission and his dedication to helping improve the community. He has my absolute faith that he will continue to grow not only our efforts of workforce development in the NCRP, but aiding innovation in Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) with STRIKEWERX and meeting the nation's cybersecurity needs via the work of CYBER.ORG.

These efforts are on solid ground with CYBER.ORG and STRIKEWERX both receiving in October five-years of funding. CYBER.ORG received a grant worth \$34 million from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and STRIKEWERX was awarded a contract with a ceiling of \$95.6 million through a five-year Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) with AFGSC.

From a quarter of a billion-dollar impact on the Air Force to 30,000 teachers from all 50 states having access to cybersecurity curriculum, STRIKEWERX and CYBER.ORG prove Louisiana and northwest Louisiana are dedicated to advancing research, education, and technological innovation for the nation.

As this transition begins and the new year dawns, I can't help but reflect on the journey to change our corner of the state by growing the local economy and diversifying the regional workforce. It is a journey that has required a long-term investment by CIC and NCRP partners, city and parish officials, the State of Louisiana, and our Congressional Delegation. It required a lot of demanding work by these same people and will require more in the future.

2023 NUMBERS

3,148

Jobs Supported

\$170.5M

New Business Sales

\$192.7M

New Household Earnings

1,027

Average of Jobs Supported per year

\$1B+

New Sales Parish-Wide

\$1B+

New Earnings for Parish Residents

\$47.7M

New Tax Revenue for Local Government

\$63,934

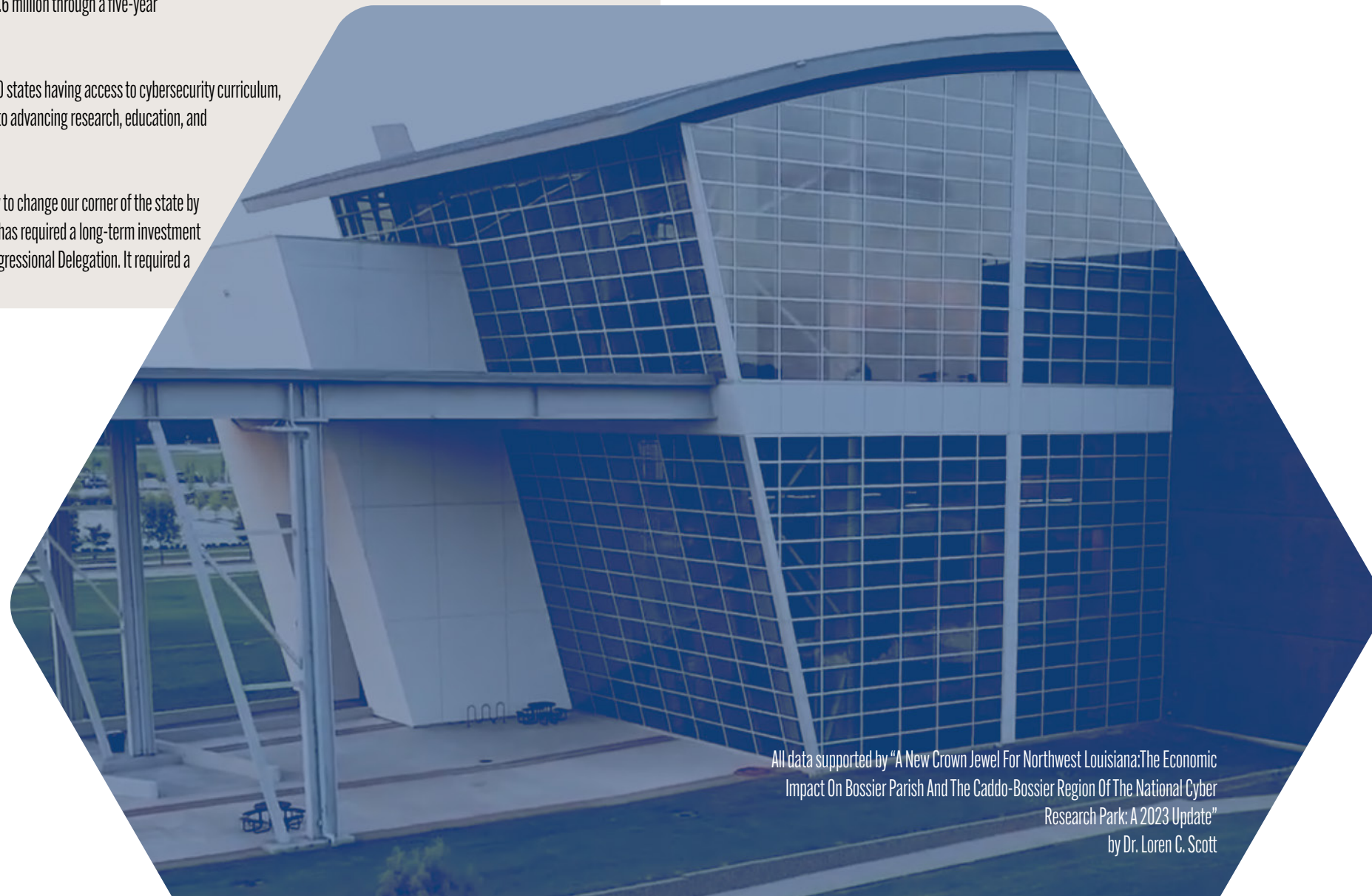
Average Wage (26% higher than average wage of all workers in Bossier Parish)

\$137.3M

Indirect Sales

680

Indirect Jobs



All data supported by "A New Crown Jewel For Northwest Louisiana: The Economic Impact On Bossier Parish And The Caddo-Bossier Region Of The National Cyber Research Park: A 2023 Update" by Dr. Loren C. Scott

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Laurie Salvail
Director of CYBER.ORG

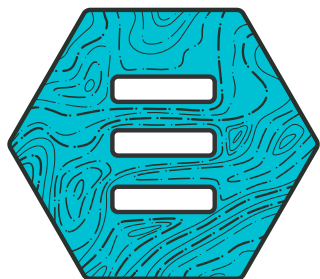
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In 2023, more than 200 government, education and healthcare organizations in the U.S. fell victim to ransomware while also facing a national shortage of over 755,000 skilled cybersecurity professionals. The workforce gap in the cybersecurity industry is a national security issue.

CYBER.ORG has played a critical role in helping close the cybersecurity workforce gap. CYBER.ORG had an incredibly impactful year in 2023 as we expanded access to K-12 cybersecurity education and empowered teachers to train the next generation cybersecurity workforce. With the support and partnership of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), we launched initiatives focused on improving equity in cybersecurity education reaching a range of minority groups with no-cost K-12 cybersecurity curriculum to diversify the U.S. talent pipeline.

At CYBER.ORG, we're committed to making K-12 cybersecurity education and careers in the field available to all students - regardless of zip code and background. Addressing the industry's lack of diversity is long overdue and means ensuring that all K-12 students can become cyber literate and develop the skills to pursue careers in the field, starting as early as kindergarten.

We are thrilled by the success that our new programming had in 2023. However, there is so much more that we can do and that still needs to be done to increase access to cybersecurity education and advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in the field. We're eager to build off the success of 2023 and expand our impact in 2024 and beyond.



CYBER.ORG RANGE

A no-cost, safe, virtual environment to practice cybersecurity skills.

- 50 States
- 1,600+ Schools
- 25,000+ Student Accounts

cyber.org/range

CYBER.ORG

THE ACADEMIC INITIATIVE OF THE CYBER INNOVATION CENTER

CYBER.ORG believes K-12 cyber education is the key to solving the cyber workforce shortage. Our goal is to empower educators as they prepare the next generation to succeed in the cyber workforce of tomorrow.



Vision

To build a future where the nation's cybersecurity needs are met by a knowledgeable, skilled, and passionate workforce.



Mission

To ensure that every K-12 student gains foundational and technical cybersecurity knowledge and skills.



Approach

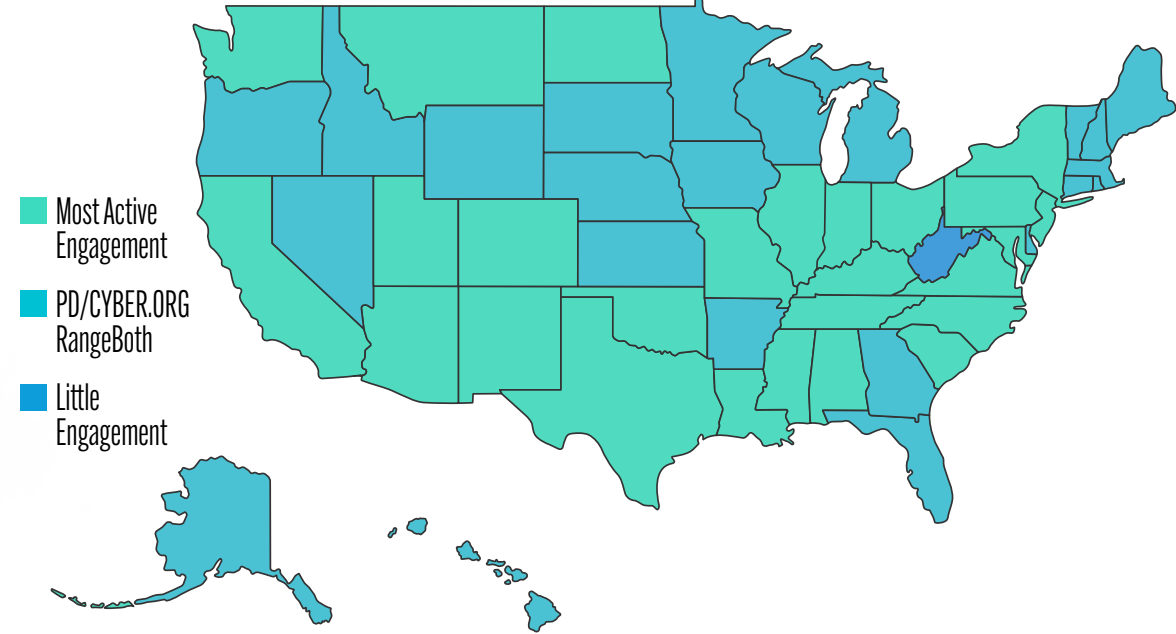
Empower teachers with resources and training needed to deliver cyber content to students.

32,002
educators enrolled in CYBER.ORG curricula

5,083
educators impacted through Professional Development

630,252
estimated student reach

CYBER.ORG Teacher Impact Across the United States



In FY23, CYBER.ORG impacted educators from nearly every state, whether through curriculum use, in-person or virtual workshop events, or CYBER.ORG Range usage.

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STRIKEWERX

Jeff Beene
Partnership Intermediary Agreement Director
The Collaborative Environment

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In its seventh year, STRIKEWERX saw the highest number and value of projects to date. It has realized a five-fold return on its investment with over a quarter-of-a-billion-dollar estimated impact as the innovation partner of the AFGSC Office of the Chief Scientist. With collaboration space at the CIC and proximity to Barksdale Air Force Base, the STRIKEWERX Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) allows us to impact national defense by serving as the command's persistent technology transfer, technology transition, and innovation resource.

Thanks to a contract with a ceiling of \$95.6M through the PIA in fall of 2023, this impact will only continue to grow. STRIKEWERX will bring forth new technology and solutions via Design Sprints that quickly produce minimum viable products, Challenge events that provide market research for latest technology, and expand our innovation hub to include the new STRIKEWERX Innovation Lab for Airmen to turn their ideas into physical prototypes.

The continuation of our PIA to 2033 proves it is successfully fielding innovation for the command. From data-driven decision tools and expanded software automation to advanced learning technologies and augmented reality advances that improve training, new capabilities for the AFGSC warfighter now exist. This impact would not be possible without the AFGSC Chief Scientist Office and our congressional delegation, who understand the importance of new technology to the strategic mission of AFGSC and our national security.

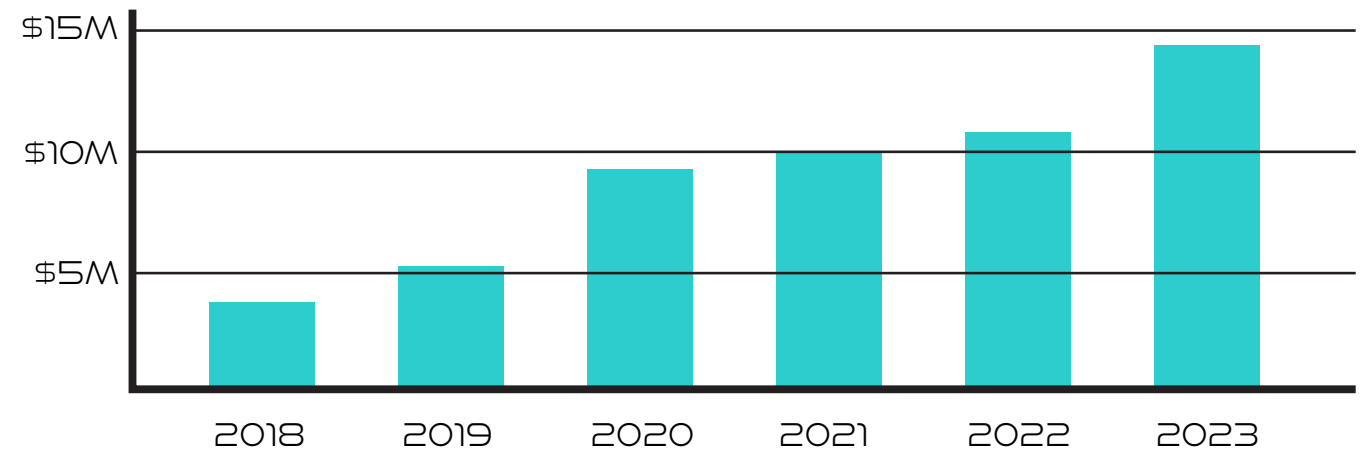
The CIC has demonstrated its investment in the local, state, and national defense community to positively affect national security. Our Mobile Counter Small Unmanned Aerial Systems Swarm Defeat Challenge event we started in 2023 is a great example of this.

We will continue to leverage our collaboration and innovation pathways to find industry, small businesses, inventors, and academia throughout our region, state, and country to impact the command.

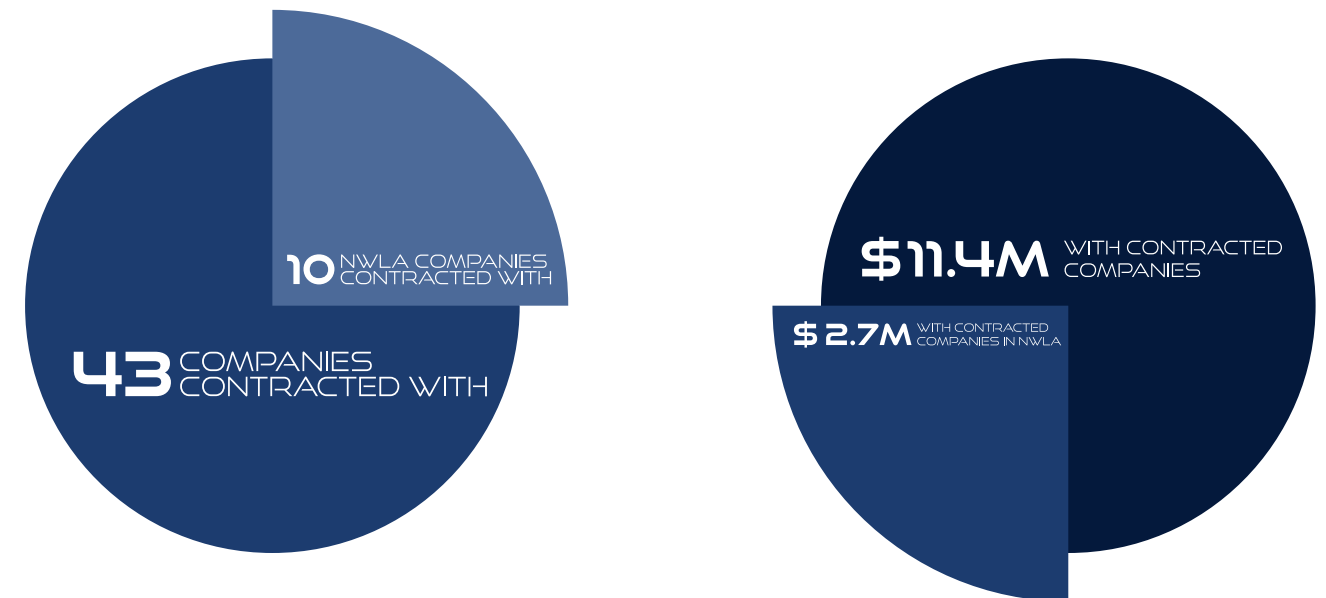
We are excited that this new agreement will allow us to accomplish more efforts like this and deliver a cost-effective, scalable, and agile approach to benefit the command and aid in revitalizing the Air Force nuclear enterprise.

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Investments Since FY2017



Industry Partnerships 2023



Strikewerx Highlights

Global Strike National Security Fellowship

A cooperative effort between AFGSC, CIC, and the Louisiana Tech Applied Research Corporation. The command leverages highly skilled local talent to address complex problems at a lower cost than traditional government contractors while simultaneously preparing these fellows for potential careers at AFGSC or in the defense industry.

Successes:

- A fellow provided inputs that resulted in the preliminary savings of \$10 million for the Air Force.
- 35 students have participated in the fellowship to date, with 10 receiving job offers and other opportunities in a high-demand, technical career field.

Advanced Training Concepts Challenge

AFGSC is seeking to leverage advances in learning techniques to train Airmen in a more efficient and effective manner. The specific training use cases focused on were Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) response, B-52 communications, and E-4B communications maintenance. Three companies were contracted to produce three prototype systems for these use cases and will deliver their prototypes in 2023 Q4.

Successes:

- \$3M project
- 3 companies contracted with

HIVE: Modeling & Simulation for Leadership Decisions

The Hive, AFGSC's Futures Division, rapidly conducts capability analysis experimentation on the command's future capabilities and force design. CIC supported The Hive by providing space, systems, software, and program support enabling The Hive to execute 3 mission planning events which created 8 different planning scenarios. The CIC development team performed analytics after each scenario, empowering The HIVE to improve subsequent iterations of the scenarios, thereby improving the command's future capabilities.

Successes:

- 3 mission planning events
- 8 different scenarios generated

\$ 278.67M
ESTIMATED COST SAVINGS
IMPACT TO AIR FORCE

34
SOLUTIONS IN
DEVELOPMENT

48
SOLUTIONS
DELIVERED

+10K
EVENT ATTENDEES

\$6.8M
LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

EXPANDED PARTNERSHIPS
& PROJECTS TO SERVICE

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DIRECTORATES WINGS MAJCOMS



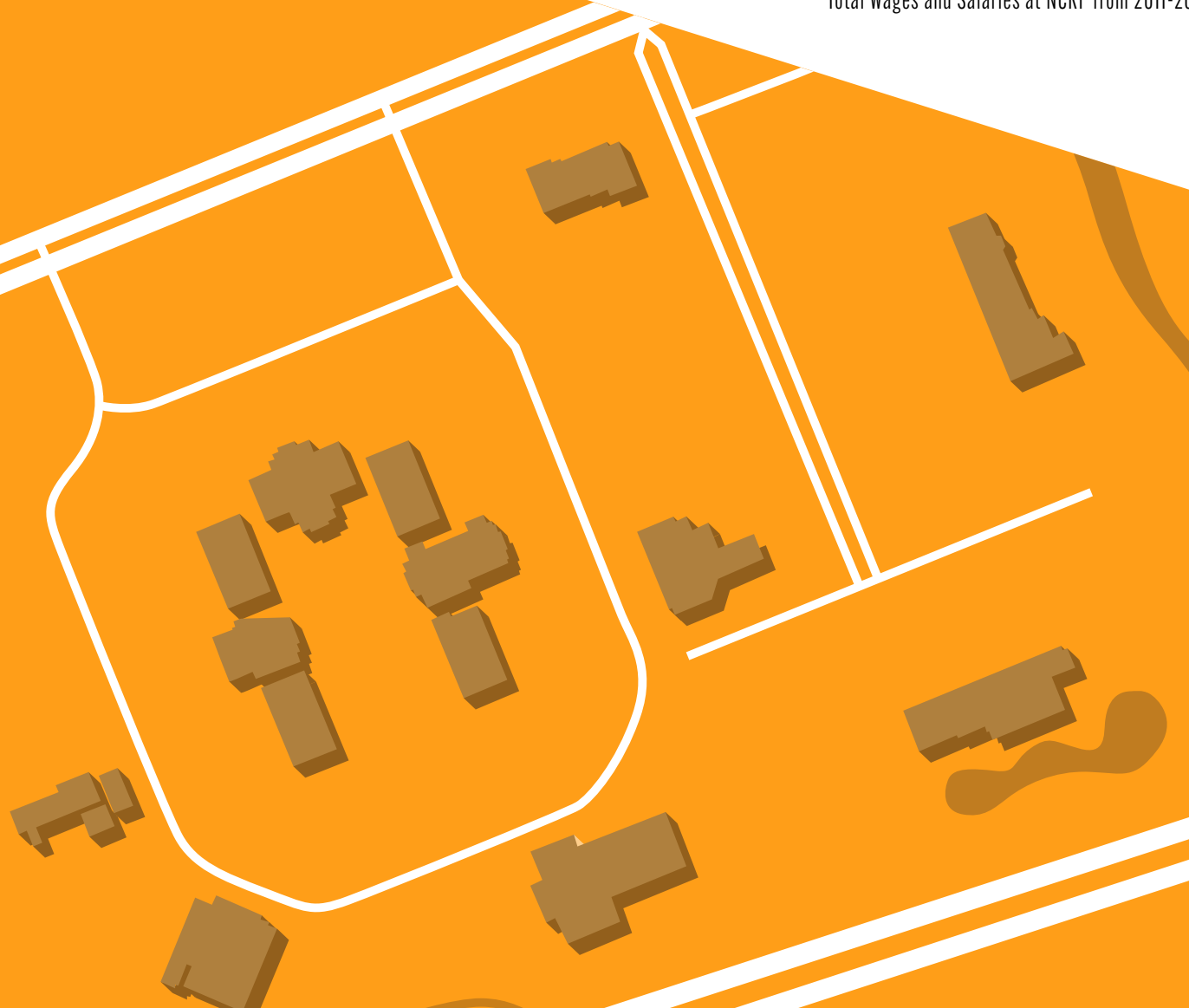
national cyber RESEARCH PARK

\$193M

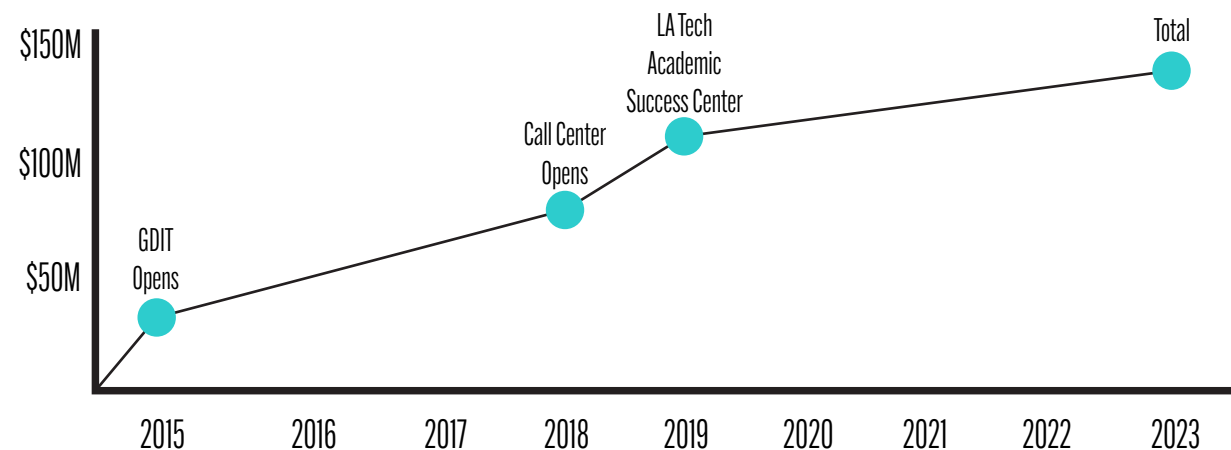
Total Construction Investment in NCRP from 2009 - 2023

\$825.7M

Total Wages and Salaries at NCRP from 2011-2023



NCRP Financial Impact Highlights



Top Industries Impacted by NCRP

Sales

Real Estate

Jobs

Real Estate

New Earnings

Healthcare

Serving as the anchor of Louisiana's Cyber Corridor, Cyber Innovation Center and its National Cyber Research Park (NCRP) provide a physical location for government, industry, and academic partners to collaborate, conduct leading research, and develop state of the art technologies.



cyber innovation center™

CYBER.ORG
THE ACADEMIC INITIATIVE OF THE CYBER INNOVATION CENTER

STRIKEWERX
A stylized logo for StrikeWerx, featuring the word "STRIKEWERX" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a graphic element consisting of a blue arrow pointing left, with a curved line above it that suggests motion or a trajectory.

