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UMA's cybersecurity range makes state 'world leader'



PHOTO / MAUREEN MILLIKEN

State Rep. Matt Pouliot, R-Augusta, left, and state Sen. Shenna Bellows, D-Manchester, get a demonstration of the Maine Cyber Range at UMA, which opened Friday.

By Maureen Milliken

The new Maine Cyber Range at the University of Maine in Augusta represents a giant step toward attacking "a new kind of crime" that "we're just learning to deal with," said U.S. Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, at the cyber training center's ribbon-cutting Friday.

The center will be available not only for students, but businesses and individuals, with the aim of getting ahead of fast-changing cyber threats and also filling hundreds of thousands of needed positions across the U.S.

"The opening of this training center continues UMA's mission of providing quality educational opportunities that help fill workforce needs with well-trained graduates for in-demand, highly skilled positions," said Rebecca Wyke, UMA president. Businesses and organizations that use the range will also be able to advance the skills of current employees and enhance their cyber security efforts.

University of Maine System Chancellor Dannel Malloy told a room packed with stakeholders, officials and the curious Friday that creation of the center shows "a foresight and willingness to take chances."

"We have to change the equation," he said. "We have to graduate people, or certify people, with a different set of abilities," and that requires the everyday practice the center will provide.

"There's no bigger threat to democracy than the manipulation of information," he said.



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University of Maine System Chancellor Dannel Malloy speaks Friday at the opening of the Maine Cyber Range at the University of Maine at Augusta. The cybersecurity training center is the first of its kind in New England and will be used by the entire university system, as well as being available to businesses and the public.