

## **HIGHER EDUCATION'S CYBER SECURITY: LEADERSHIP ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND THE FUTURE**

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### **Abstract**

Cyber security is a major concern in all industries, but is particularly of concern to leaders in higher education. The academy's housing of major biographical and financial data, in addition to data related to research and development of new technologies, makes colleges and universities susceptible to cyber attacks. The coordination, implementation, and direction of cyber security has subsequently grown to be a major concern on college campuses, with the campus leader or president typically having ultimate authority over cyber security strategy. Using a research-team developed survey instrument that was administered to 150 college presidents, the current study sought to determine the extent of senior college leaders involvement in cyber security. Study findings revealed that the authority for cyber security strategy was predominantly distributed to the senior information or business officer, that there are major concerns about the safety of data related to financial, student, faculty, and donor affairs, and that about half of college leaders talk about cyber security related issues 2-6 times per week. Further research that explores how decisions are made about cyber security priorities, as well as how to best provide training for better cyber security decision-making were recommended.

**Keywords:** Higher Education, Cyber Security, College Presidents, Technology in Higher Education, Decision- Making.