

AGENDA

TIME	SESSION
11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.	Welcome & Networking Lunch <u>Presenter:</u> Kyle Swanson Dean, College of Sciences, Metro State University
12:00 P.M. - 12:45 P.M.	Keynote Speaker: Major General (Ret.) Johanna P. Clyborne "Intelligence at the Crossroads"
12:45 PM - 1:30 PM	Panel 1: National Threat Landscape & Cyber Intelligence Responses <u>Moderator:</u> Brian Morgan <u>Panelists:</u> Hannah Connolly , Jake Iverson, Jennifer Lotze, Stefanie Horvath
1:30 PM - 2:15 PM	Panel 2: Intelligence Careers — From Campus to Clearance <u>Moderator:</u> Vince Peeler <u>Panelists:</u> Adam Scholze, Debra Bennett, Hannah Connolly, Steven Witt
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Networking Break
2:30 PM - 3:15 PM	Panel 3: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Intelligence <u>Moderator:</u> Jon Olson <u>Panelists:</u> Chris Tatarka, Deepak Kukade, Vince Peeler
3:15 PM - 4:00 PM	Panel 4: Building the IC Talent Pipeline — Academic & Agency Partnerships <u>Moderator:</u> Chris Tatarka <u>Panelists:</u> Adam Scholze, Deepak Kukade, Shervon Cassim, Stefanie Horvath
4:00 PM - 4:45 PM	Roundtable Discussion: The Future of Intelligence Workforce Development
4:45 PM - 5:00 PM	Closing Remarks <u>Presenter:</u> Dr. Faisal Kaleem Professor, Metro State University; Interim Executive Director of Metro State Applied Innovation Institute

Friday, September 12, 2025



NORTH STAR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM

*Securing the Future: Building the
Intelligence Workforce of Tomorrow*



**METRO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Major General (Ret.) Johanna P. Clyborne



Johanna is a founding partner of Brekke, Clyborne & Ribich, where she focuses on family law and legal issues affecting military families. She has co-authored legislation, published articles, and frequently lectures, and is active with the Minnesota State Bar Association's Veterans and Military Affairs Council, the Volunteer Lawyers Network, and the Legal Assistance to Military Personnel program. A fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a Board-Certified Advocate in Family Law, and a Rule 114 Qualified Mediator, she has been recognized as a Minnesota Top Women Lawyer, Super Lawyer, and North Star Lawyer for her pro bono service. Johanna retired as a Major General after more than 35 years with the Minnesota National Guard, where she was the first woman to command a brigade and achieve the ranks of Brigadier and Major General. A Bronze Star recipient, she is also a graduate of St. Thomas School of Law and Tufts University's Fletcher School.

PANELISTS

Adam Scholze

Lieutenant Colonel, Deputy Director of Intelligence & Security, MN National Guard
Adam Scholze commissioned as a Military Intelligence Officer in 2009 and has served at multiple levels with maneuver units. He completed four overseas deployments and advanced Army leadership courses. Since 2013, he has served full-time with the Minnesota National Guard as deputy director of intelligence & security, overseeing programs and advising senior leaders.

Chris Tatarka

Leadership & Organizational Development Consultant, The Management Association; Community Faculty, Metro State University
Chris Tatarka brings 35+ years of intelligence experience, including 21 years as a U.S. Army officer and 15 years as an FBI intelligence supervisor and analyst. He led 180 analysts during Operation Iraqi Freedom and has taught at West Point. He now consults on leadership and organizational development and teaches at Metro State University.

Brian Morgan

Lieutenant Colonel, J3 Director of Cyber Coordination, MN National Guard
Brian Morgan has over 20 years of experience in infantry, intelligence, signal, and cyber roles. He commanded the 177th Cyber Protection Team on a federal deployment supporting U.S. Cyber Command and has held cybersecurity leadership roles at Amazon, Medtronic, and Optum. He now leads statewide cyber defense efforts, coordinating military, state, and federal responses.

Debra Bennett

Supervisory Intelligence Analyst & Intelligence Program Coordinator, FBI Minneapolis Division
Debra Bennett has 22 years of FBI experience, specializing in domestic and international counterterrorism. She previously served with the High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group and completed overseas assignments in Germany, Afghanistan, Morocco, Italy, and Canada. Her expertise includes intelligence analysis, threat assessment, and coordinating complex operations across diverse international and domestic environments.

Deepak Kukade

Lead Intelligence Analyst, Minnesota Fusion Center/Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
Deepak Kukade develops state-level law enforcement and intelligence capabilities for Cyber Threat Intelligence. He has over six years of experience in national security, counterintelligence, and violent extremist threats, helped relaunch the Threat Liaison Officer Program, led intelligence operations for the Minnesota Street Racing Operation, and has spoken at 15+ national conferences.

Jake Iverson

Supervisory Special Agent & Cyber Program Coordinator, FBI Minneapolis Division
Jake Iverson joined the FBI in 2006 with prior cybersecurity experience and has served as a cyber agent in Washington, D.C., New York, and Minnesota. With 19 years of experience, he manages a team of investigators and is a senior member of the FBI's Cyber Action Team, which deploys worldwide to respond to major cyber incidents.

Jon Olson

Commander (Ret.), U.S. Navy; Educator & Co-Author
Jon Olson, a US Naval Academy graduate, served 21 years on active duty, including overseas deployments and as a CIA-trained case officer rebuilding Navy HUMINT. Since retiring, he hosted National Security This Week on KYMN Radio, and currently teaches national security courses, leads crisis negotiation exercises, and co-authors 11 national security thrillers.

Stefanie Horvath

Chief Information Security Officer, City of Saint Paul; Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence
Stefanie Horvath has over 25 years of experience in IT and cybersecurity leadership at the federal, state, and local government levels. Her military assignments include service with US Cyber Command, operational deployments to Iraq and Kosovo, and providing emergency communications support for hurricane relief efforts.

Vince Peeler

Human Risk Leader, Children's Hospital Minnesota; Community Faculty, Metro State University; Intelligence Officer (Ret.), U.S. Navy
Vince Peeler is a Human Risk leader and teaches Threat Hunting and Cyber Intelligence at Metro State, where he develops curriculum. A 25-year U.S. Navy veteran, he served in electronic warfare and cyber intelligence, including founding the Electronic Warfare Academy in Baghdad. He later held civilian cyber intelligence roles and shares on Substack while hosting The Intelligence Cycle podcast.

Hannah Connolly

Director of Cyber Threat Intelligence, Target
Hannah Connolly oversees initiatives to identify, analyze, and mitigate emerging cyber threats at Target. She began her career in federal defense and intelligence contracting, focusing on cyber policy, open-source intelligence, and national security. Since 2019, she has produced strategic intelligence assessments, delivered executive briefings, and supported Fortune 50 companies as a cyber threat analyst.

Jennifer Lotze

Principal Consultant, IT Audit Labs
Jennifer Lotze is known for strengthening critical infrastructure and advancing security education. A Certified Educational Technology Leader, she improved cybersecurity instruction and student data protection in schools, and served as Minnesota's Cybersecurity State Coordinator with CISA, supporting critical infrastructure and state and local governments through planning, exercises, and incident response.

Shervon Cassim

Attorney, Educator, Former Intelligence Officer
Shervon Cassim earned a JD from the University of Minnesota and practiced corporate and commercial law. He later earned an MFA in Creative Writing from North Carolina State University, where he taught fiction writing in the English Department. His career blends legal, creative, and instructional expertise, allowing him to engage students and audiences across multiple disciplines.

Steven Witt

Chief Executive Officer, Anno.ai; Former Intelligence Officer
Steven Witt is CEO of Anno.ai, a U.S. defense technology company in Duluth, Minnesota, and serves on boards of tech companies, investment funds, and a nonprofit. He co-founded DataTribe and Onyara, building and selling the latter for \$42 million. He also served as a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officer and received multiple U.S. Foreign Service honors.