



***Intelligence Community
Center for Academic Excellence
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The Norfolk State University Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (IC-CAE) hosted a seminar entitled “Opportunities in the U.S. Intelligence Community” on April 24, 2009 in the Roy A. Woods Science Building Auditorium. The purpose of the seminar was to expose Norfolk State



University students to information about the 16 intelligence communities within the federal government; to allow students to learn about internships and scholarships available through the intelligence communities; and to provide students with vital information to consider in obtaining a security clearance for specific jobs within the intelligence community. Students, faculty, and staff members from the university came to listen to the very informative and insightful discussion.

The seminar highlighted three intelligence community professionals. This first was Mr. Leslie Howell, program manager for the Career Management and Professional Development (CMPD) office at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). As the CMPD program manager, he is responsible for developing NGA security professionals to provide the best possible advice, assistance, and guidance to NGA managers and leaders for protecting the nation’s personnel, information, facilities, and operations. He shared with students how he entered the intelligence community through his service in the military and about how opportunities within the federal government allow one to work for several different agencies. Mr. Howell, a veteran of the United States Air Force, had worked for the Defense Intelligence Agency before joining the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

The second speaker was Mr. Marcus Eason, intelligence security specialist for the United States Air Force. Working in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, Mr. Eason is responsible for the management and oversight of the Air Force special security office system, intelligence security program management; policy development for the protection of intelligence sources and methods for the Director of National Intelligence; the intelligence community, and the United States Air Force. Mr. Eason spoke about how important it is for students to pursue careers in the intelligence community because many of the persons doing the job currently are close to retirement age. He stressed to students that no matter what one’s field of study may be, the intelligence community can use a variety of skills.



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The third and final speaker was Mr. James Chambers. Completing the triumvirate of retired Air Force personnel, Mr. Chambers is currently a senior research analyst for ManTech International Corporation, a government contract that specializes in defense and intelligence. In his role at ManTech International, he supports the office of the director of national intelligence special security center, where his focus is on the intelligence community's security education and training program. During his presentation, Mr. Chambers spoke about it is important to do well in a chosen professional, and in while doing so, important to give back to the next generation. He shared information with students about the different internships possibilities within the federal government, highlight government officials in the room that could provide students with more pointed direction as to how to apply to a specific agency, and reminded students that they did not have to be perfect people to work for the government, but to make sure that in all that one does, remember that it could either help or hurt.



The seminar concluded with students being able to speak one-on-one with officials representing different intelligence agencies of the federal government. Students and guest were invited to engage in this networking opportunity while enjoying refreshments provided by Dr. Camellia Moses-Okpodu, Professor of Biology and Director for the Center for Microgravity and Environmental Biology. Dr. Okpodu is also the faculty liaison to the national advisory board of the IC-CAE.

The Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence is funded through at grant from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI). The goal of the IC-CAE is to prepare students for leadership positions in government service with a specific emphasis on developing critical skills necessary to begin a career in the Intelligence Community. For further information about the IC-CAE, please contact Dr. Arlene Maclin, Professor of Engineering and Director of the IC-CAE, at apmaclin@nsu.edu or at 757-823-2843.