IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — Rand Kato, the Chief Information Officer at College of Eastern Idaho (CEI), has been selected as a distinguished panel expert for an upcoming webinar focused on Cyber Hygiene. The webinar, "What's So Essential about Cyber Hygiene? Part 11 - Service Provider Management," is slated to take place on Tuesday, October 24th, at noon MST.

The free-to-attend webinar aims to shed light on fundamental aspects of cybersecurity, particularly delving into CIS Critical Security Control 15 concerning service provider management and safeguarding sensitive data and IT processes. IT managers and cybersecurity enthusiasts are encouraged to register for this informative event by visiting https://cisevents.webex.com/weblink/register/r00f2f29d0408a9fd1ed9622d9bc86dd1.

During the Cyber Hygiene webinar series, the session will not only delve into essential cybersecurity concepts but also illuminate strategic approaches to incorporating third-party providers into an enterprise's security framework, addressing service provider management and proper handling of sensitive data and IT processes. The session will feature a panel comprising peers from the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) and State Local, and Education (SLED) organizations, providing valuable insights into the effective utilization of third-party service providers from a cybersecurity standpoint. Participants can also anticipate gaining access to a curated collection of complimentary resources and cost-effective tools designed to significantly enhance the protection and security of critical data information.

"Many cyber-attacks can be attributed to simply a lack of good cyber hygiene," Kato mentioned. "Most successful attacks often exploit circumstances that can be aptly characterized as 'neglecting security best practices,' such as neglecting to update known vulnerabilities through patching, inadequate configuration management, and ineffectual handling of administrative privileges."

CIS Security is a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) federally-sponsored organization. CIS established the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) and the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing & Analysis Center (EI-ISAC) to improve the overall cybersecurity posture through coordination, collaboration, cooperation, and increased communication and to ensure the integrity of elections among and for SLTT and SLED.

Kato joined CEI in May and brings over 20 years of invaluable experience in IT leadership, data management, cybersecurity, enterprise solutions, and analytics to the discussion. His expertise encompasses various domains, including cybersecurity governance for county election security, a focal
point of his ongoing dissertation as a doctoral candidate in Information Systems and Management at Syracuse University.

Kato’s contributions to the field are well-documented, including the co-publication of a noteworthy journal in IEEE titled "Applications of Blockchain Methodologies for Microgrid Energy Transactions while Maintaining User Privacy and Data Security – A Review." Currently, he is actively creating other impactful Cybersecurity and Data Infrastructure journal articles.

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**About College of Eastern Idaho**

College of Eastern Idaho (CEI, formerly EITC), Idaho’s newest comprehensive community college, offers associate degrees, technical certificates, and workforce training programs to help students achieve their educational and career goals. With a focus on affordability, accessibility, and student success, CEI is dedicated to providing high-quality education and training to the residents of eastern Idaho. Visit [https://cei.edu](https://cei.edu) for more information.