

Oct 27th, 2017

On Friday, October 27th, 30 students accompanied Mr Bell and Mr Jala to the Cyber Security Awareness Day event at Kean University. They rode the train 2 stops from Cranford to Union, and then walked through campus getting a tour from Mr Jala, a graduate of Kean. At the new North Ave. Academic Building, the students were greeted with breakfast and a warm welcome from the faculty in the Computer Science Department. The event began with an introduction from Kean University president Dawood Farahi welcoming the HS and college students in attendance. The main program then began with a presentation from Mr Phillip Frigm, a representative from the FBI about government's role in Cyber Security. It then continued with Sam Morales, a representative from Google imparting wisdom on "How to get a job at Google." Our last speaker was John Liefert from AT&T and is a White Hat Hacker, who demonstrated how he could gather information from our phones from the unsecure wifi networks like the ones in coffee shops, airports and even our own homes. The students were then given lunch with a presentation on admissions to Kean U, walked back across campus, and hopped on the train back to Cranford. This informative session left these impressions on the students:

FBI – Mr. Philip Frigm, Supervisory Special Agent

"It was interesting to see how each of the Bureaus were broken up and who was in charge of what."

"I can't believe there are 550 agents working in Cyber Security for the FBI in the entire world."

"I appreciated how he described steps taken to make the world safer."

"There have been a bunch of data breaches, the advice on how to stay safe was certainly appreciated."

Google – Sam Morales, Program Manager

"It was fascinating how the interview process was described, I felt like it was relevant to us."

"I love how their offices are designed all over the world. Can we go check the NYC one out?"

"For seniors, I loved the career orientation of this part of the day. The internships available to me this summer look amazing."

"I really feel like this information applied to us. I was happy for the different types of talks."

"His beard was awesome!"

AT&T – John Liefert, Principal Member of Technical Staff at AT&T

"Entertaining." "Amazing." "This demo was so cool!"

"That scared the bajesus out of me. I use unsecure wifi all of the time!"

"The advice he gave us was good. I have to ask about our settings at home."

Overall –

“I loved that there were opportunities [at FBI, Google, AT&T] but it is so cool that there is something for us High Schoolers.”

“That was three very different perspectives on the state of Cyber Security.”

“Lots of information from the FBI, career availabilities from Google and real life applications from AT&T. I thought there was humor in all of these presentations.”

Our students answered questions from Mr Bell and Mr Jala after returning about Social Engineering, Dual Factor Authentication and Security vs Convenience in terms of password strength. The students are all engaged and interested in this field that has so much potential for them and this day provided a glimpse into the world of CyberSecurity.