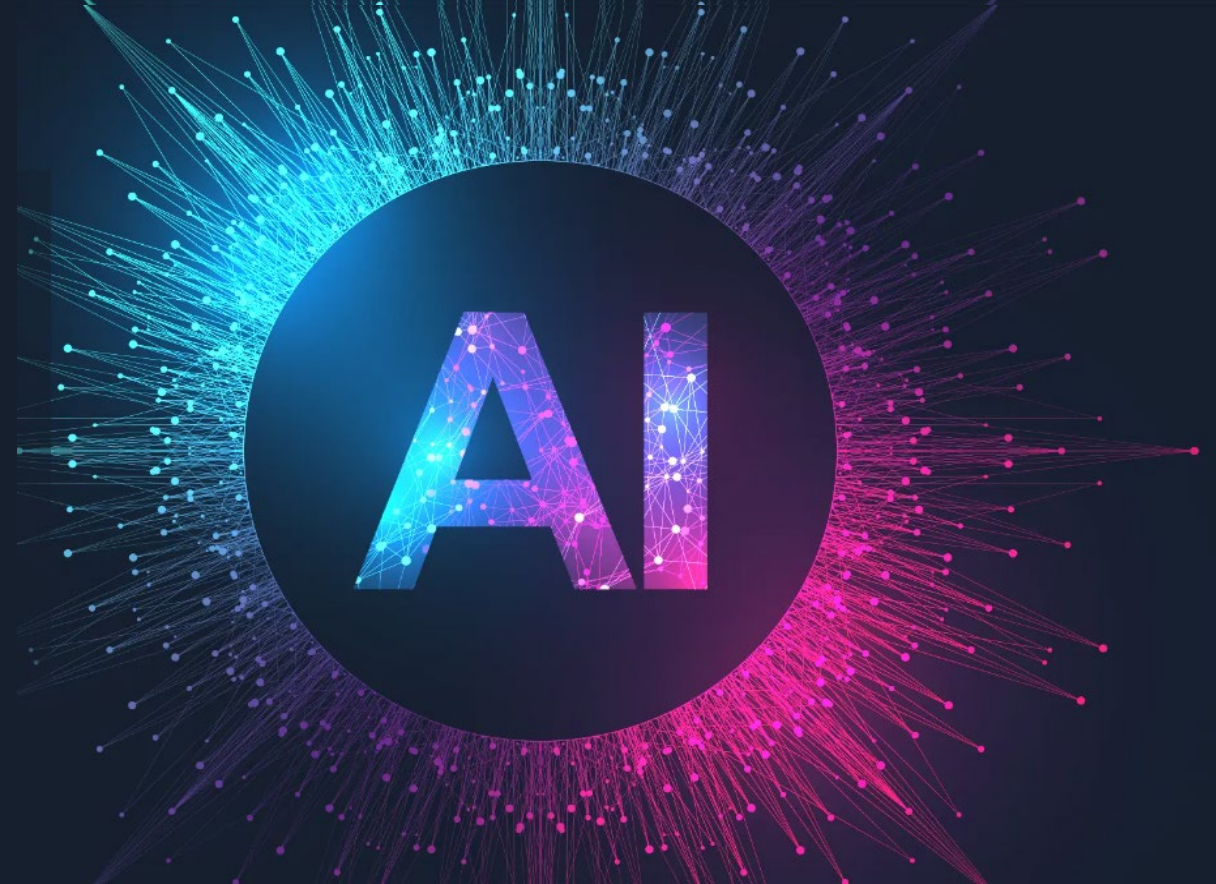


CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION IN THE

# AGE OF AI AND AUTOMATION & AMBIGUITY

Seattle University

November 12th to 14th



Herbert Mattord – Kennesaw State University  
Michael Whitman – Kennesaw State University  
Kathleen Kotwica – Security Executive Council



**KENNESAW STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
COLES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
*Center for Cybersecurity Education*

# The Problem & The Gap



CONVERGENCE DISCUSSED FOR 20+ YEARS, BUT INCONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION



ACADEMIC RESEARCH ON CONVERGENCE UNDERDEVELOPED



MANY ORGANIZATIONS OPERATE CYBER & PHYSICAL SECURITY SEPARATELY

# Methodology



Mixed-methods design



Survey: 99 organizations (various industries, sizes, geographies)



Interviews: 23 security professionals

# Key Findings

Range of integration: fully merged to siloed

Physical security often higher in hierarchy than cybersecurity

Success factors: leadership, communication, adaptable frameworks

# Four Best Practices

1. Employee risk ratings for insider threat detection

2. Decision matrices to standardize operational responses

3. Fusion centers for coordinated action

4. Supportive culture with trust and shared goals

# Convergence as a Continuum

Not a binary choice – depends on risk, leadership, maturity

Mechanisms for mutual understanding & joint responsibility

Moving along the continuum is imperative

# Feedback

- How do you think we could refine these messages?