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**State of Vermont**

**Office of the Secretary of State**

128 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-1101

[phone] 802-828-2363

[fax] 802-828-2496

[www.sec.state.vt.us](http://www.sec.state.vt.us)

**James C. Condos, Secretary of State**

**Christopher D. Winters, Deputy Secretary**

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**For immediate release**

**Contact: Liz Ryder, 802-828-2148**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Deputy Secretary of State Chris Winters Attends the  
National Cybersecurity Center's Cyber Institute Program**

*Montpelier* – Deputy Secretary of State Chris Winters traveled to Colorado Springs, Colorado to attend the National Cybersecurity Center's 3-day Cyber Institute Program. He was joined by Governors, Generals, Mayors, Commissioners, Attorneys General, Secretaries of State, and other industry representatives from across the nation.

Cybersecurity is an increasingly important focus for state and local government leaders. The Vermont Secretary of State's Office is actively working to stay engaged on this ever changing issue. Managing elections, registering businesses, and maintaining the state's archives are all important responsibilities that require us to protect this valuable information from any potential cyber threats. This is a responsibility the office takes very seriously.

The Cyber Institute Program provided government leaders with the knowledge to understand current cybersecurity risks and the expertise to properly prevent and prepare for any potential risks they may face. During the three day program, Deputy Winters attended meetings focused on cybersecurity, allocation of cyber-resources, damage control, and response & recovery methods. By attending the program, Deputy Winters gained valuable knowledge which the office will utilize to design practical preventative methods and solutions to cybersecurity risks.

Winters had this to say about the conference: "Cyber threats continue to grow in this rapidly changing world. Government is entrusted with so much sensitive personal information that we have to be responsible caretakers and do all we can to prevent any breach of that information." Winters continued, "The Secretary of State's Office has been on the forefront of cybersecurity assessment and prevention for a few years now, but there is always more to learn."

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