

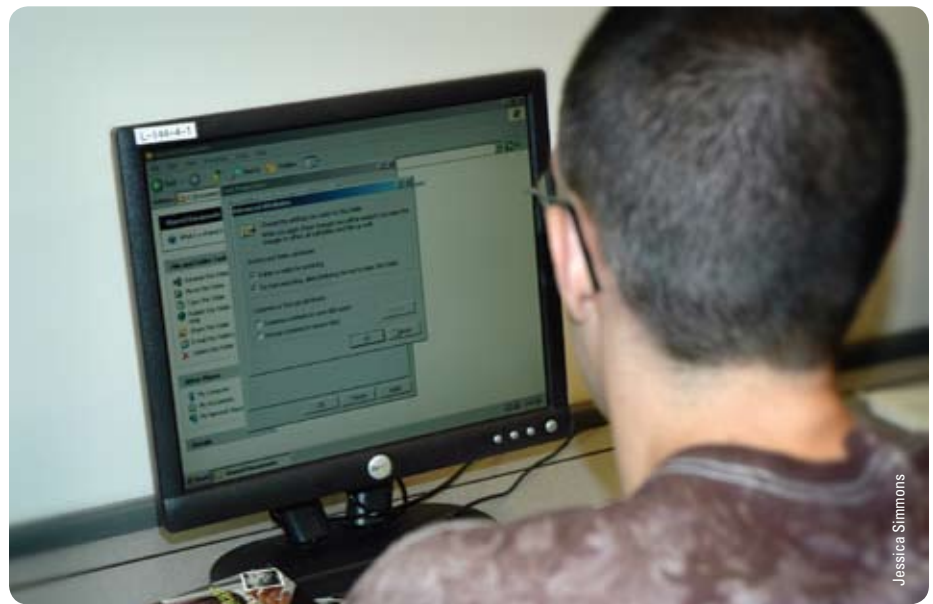
STRENGTHENING *Cyber Security*

WHETHER BY TERRORISM or natural disaster, the nation's financial system is always at risk. According to Dr. Abdullah Konak, associate professor of information sciences and technology, "Threats to privacy and security have increased over the last decade, so there is a great demand for an information-security-enabled workforce."

That's why Penn State Berks Continuing Education and Reading Area Community College offered this summer to teenagers a Computer and Cyber Security Camp, developed by Konak, that exposes students to careers in computer security, particularly in the financial services industry. The campus has other related projects in the works, including a professional development program for high school teachers.

The camp—also held at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, with Luzerne County Community College, and Penn State Worthington Scranton—was funded by Wall Street West, a partnership of northeastern Pennsylvania groups whose goal is to develop a back-up solution for New York City's financial institutions in the event of a disaster.

Penn State Berks aims to help achieve this goal by "reaching out to regional



Jessica Simmons

IN TRAINING: *There is a great demand for an information-security-enabled workforce.*

high schools, creating collaborations and transferring educational technology between the higher education institutions in the region, and offering professional development in information assurance and risk analysis education," said Walt Fullam, director of Penn State Berks Continuing Education.

A more research-oriented initiative at Penn State Altoona focuses on im-

proving information systems security among local government officials in Pennsylvania. With a grant from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, Altoona faculty Dr. Jungwoo Ryoo (information sciences), Dr. Tulay Girard (marketing) and Charlotte McConn (information systems) are assessing the computer security readiness of small municipalities throughout rural Pennsylvania.



HORSE ID'S

THE HORSE INDUSTRY

contributes more than \$39 billion to the U.S. economy and employs more than 1.4 million people, according to the American Horse Council. But equines, like other animals, are susceptible to diseases, theft and possibly bioterrorism.

Researchers at Penn State are working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to assess whether implanting microchips into horses could minimize the impacts of such events. Microchips can help owners recover lost or stolen horses quickly and can help officials trace diseases. The USDA already has implemented a National Animal Identification System for which

participation currently is voluntary.

"Education is the prime way to help the livestock population and especially the horse owners to accept the USDA system," said Helene McKernan, equine research associate in the Penn State Department of Dairy and Animal Science, who is working on the project with Dr. Ann Swinker, associate professor of equine science.

McKernan is giving presentations and leading workshops to educate people about horse microchipping. The research team is also collecting information regarding owners' questions and concerns about microchipping through online, written and verbal surveys, which will be supplied to the USDA.

Microchips can help owners recover horses.