

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE
SCHOOL OF APPLIED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

April 9, 2025

Subject: FISSEA Special Recognition, Mary Damon

Greetings,

I would like to express my appreciation for Mary Damon's effort and accomplishments and recommend her for the 2025 FISSEA Cybersecurity Awareness and Training Award. As a Cybersecurity Instructor here at FSI her contributions and ongoing efforts supporting the program and the overhaul of the IA110, ISSO Cybersecurity Foundations, course have been exceptional.

Operating in a challenging environment where support from other instructors can be minimal due to staff shortages and other responsibilities, Mary has been able to keep moving forward fostering ongoing positive impacts in the organization.

Despite this and her commitment teaching classes, Mary has stepped forward assuming the Lead for IA610 (Software Assurance for Application Programmers), one of the most technical courses. Mary has also initiated development and delivery of several cybersecurity microlearning presentations that will contribute to the new hands-on exercises for IA110, as well as maintaining dialogs with State Department Bureaus.

Mary's contributions don't stop there. She embarked on a new quarterly set of presentations entitled "Insider View". These new segments have been particularly exciting as they feature a round table panel of Subject Matter Experts discussing current IT and Cybersecurity issues in a Talk Show format in a live studio setting. As the View's main moderator, Mary makes discussions and interviews with guests interesting, informative, and engaging.

Additionally, Mary has also taken on numerous Special Projects that have bolstered Cybersecurity education efforts:

- [Cybersecurity **RAPID RESPONSE** series](#)- timely training for the fast-paced tech landscape
- [Azure Lab Development](#) for engaging hands-on practical exercises
- [Cyber Course Modularization Project](#) – to streamline curriculum development
- [Cybersecurity Resource Library](#) – a shared student resource, always up to date
- [FSI TECH TALKS: The Insider View](#) – as noted above
- [FSiLearn LMS](#) – establishing a cohort for IA110 ISSO Cybersecurity Foundations
- [ISSO Tools Survey](#)- information sourced directly from the field
- [IAM CYBERSECURITY Video Competition](#)- our goal is to win!
- [Stream Video Library Migration](#)- creating a home for course video content
- [EPAH Distance Learning Course](#)- periodic updates to supplemental cyber course

- **GROVO Pilot**- testing an enterprise microlearning authoring tool
- **Generative AI Pilots**- learning cutting edge AI tech to improve courseware.

Also of note is Mary's continued sharing of her knowledge and experience with new instructors as both a teacher and mentor. Mary's dedication, ingenuity, and innovation knows no bounds as she continues to positively affect the organization.

Please extend my appreciation for Several Jobs Very Well Done.

V/R,

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