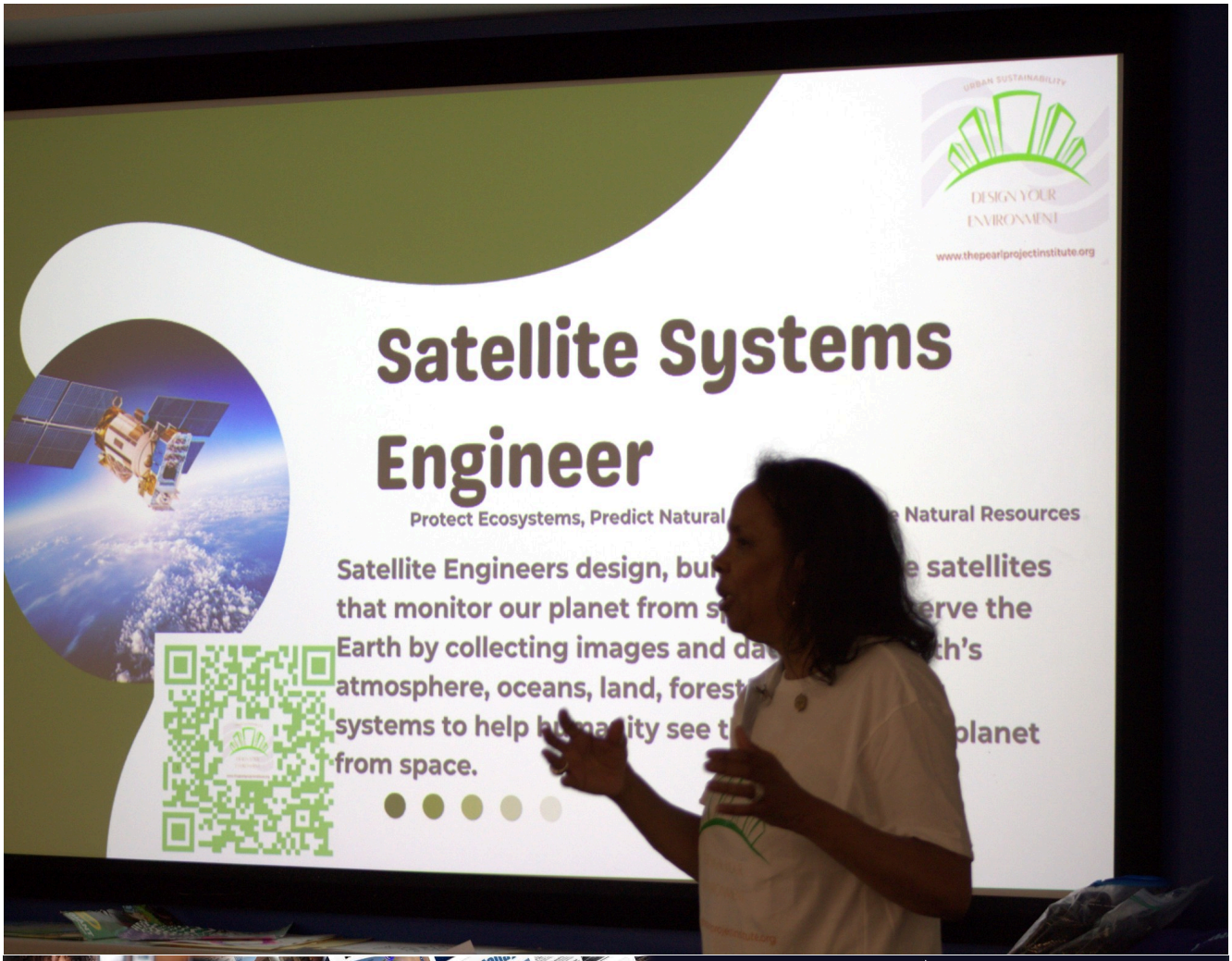
April 2026

bdpatoday®





Cover photo: **The Pearl Project Institute** introduces satellite systems engineering careers at **CyberEarth '26**, hosted by **BDPA NoVa** in Lorton, Va., April 18, 2026

page.04
CYBEREARTH '26:
10 YEARS ON EARTH DAY
BDPA NoVa hosted the 10th Annual Earth Day Tech Summit in Lorton, linking students to Ai, ICS security and climate tech careers.

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TECHNOLOGY:
FIVE DOMAINS
Artemis II, PQC, quantum computing, V2X and UAS/cUAS show how advanced tech guards air, land, sea, space and cyber.

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TECH & POLICY:
CONGRESS IN APRIL
A FISA 702 fight, a quantum reauthorization, the end of the DHS shutdown and new bills on Ai, privacy and data centers.

#TheBDPAStory

A new business-technology paradigm shift was underway, shaking up the work place and forever changing how corporations large and small would operate. Corporate computer usage skyrocketed, demand for computer programmers, analysts, operators, and managers also skyrocketed. Inspired by these emerging societal opportunities in the mid 1970's, Earl A. Pace, Jr. and David Wimberly launched BDPA — Black Data Processing Associates — expanding new opportunities for African Americans to upskill far beyond data-entry positions. And this journey begins.







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BDPA NOVA | CYBEREARTH '26 | LORTON, VIRGINIA, APRIL 2026

CYBEREARTH '26: TEN YEARS OF EARTH DAY TECH SUMMITS AND A NEW GENERATION OF PLANET DEFENDERS

BDPA Northern Virginia hosted the 10th Annual Earth Day Tech Summit in Lorton on April 18, carrying a series that BDPA DC launched in 2017 into a second decade of Ai, cybersecurity and climate technology careers for students across the National Capital Region.

10th
ANNUAL EARTH DAY TECH SUMMIT

April 18
CYBEREARTH '26 IN LORTON, VIRGINIA

5 Domains
AIR, LAND, SEA, SPACE AND CYBER

2017
SERIES LAUNCHED BY BDPA DC AS #CYBEREARTH17

LORTON, Va.: On Saturday, April 18, the same day EARTHDAY.ORG asked communities worldwide to mobilize under its 2026 theme, "Our Power, Our Planet," BDPA Northern Virginia (BDPA NoVa) opened the doors of the Lorton Neighborhood Community Center for CyberEarth '26, the 10th Annual Earth Day Tech Summit. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., high school, college and technical students sat down with industry professionals to explore internships and careers in Ai driven climate modeling and cybersecurity.

The summit anchored Northern Virginia's part of BDPA's 10th Annual Earth Day Tech Summits, April 17 to 19, where executives from industry and government, IT professionals and cybersecurity specialists served as mentors and presenters.

A DECADE OF CYBEREARTH

The series began in 2017, when BDPA of Greater Washington, D.C. (BDPA DC), the region's community trade association for information and communications technology, launched #CyberEarth17. The idea was simple: use Earth Day to show young people that protecting the planet is also a technology mission. Since then the summit has traveled the region, from Reston, Virginia, on Earth Day 2023 to Columbia, Maryland, where the 9th annual summit in April 2025 rallied attendees around the theme "Guardians of the Globe."

> *"Our Power, Our Planet."*
>
> EARTHDAY.ORG, 2026 GLOBAL THEME

AIR, LAND, SEA, SPACE AND CYBER

Every CyberEarth summit frames emerging technology across five domains: air, land, sea, space and cyber. This year's program zeroed in on industrial control systems (ICS), Ai, network security and the Internet of Things (IoT), the same technologies that run water plants, power grids, environmental sensors and satellite ground stations. Workshops, town halls and fireside chats showed students how those systems are built and defended, and organizers highlighted chances to tour technology sites across the region.

Presenters also connected Earth observation to real job titles. A speaker from The Pearl Project Institute's urban sustainability program walked students through the work of the satellite systems engineer, who designs, builds and operates the satellites that watch over the planet's atmosphere, oceans, land and forests and help forecast natural disasters (see cover).

FOR EVERY KIND OF LEARNER

CyberEarth casts a wide net, welcoming vocational learners, high school students, JROTC cadets, GED participants, college and graduate students, transitioning veterans and returning citizens. For many, it is the first time they meet a working cybersecurity analyst face to face.

That pipeline is producing results. BDPA NoVa's High School Computer Competition (HSCC) team, which trains every weekend in Lorton in data structures, web development, DevSecOps and software engineering, won the national HSCC championship at BDPACON25 in Atlanta, while BDPA DC's eSports team placed second as national finalists. In January the chapter kicked off its 2026 HSCC season as the competition, founded by Dr. Jesse Bemley in 1986, marks its 40th year.

EARTH WEEK ACROSS THE REGION

On Sunday, April 19, students in grades 5 through 12 headed to the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center for STEM Expo 2026, powered by the Navy League. Earlier in April, BDPA student member Isaac Njoroge, a University of Maryland information science student and an alumnus of the SITES Robotics Academy, accepted a summer 2026 cybersecurity internship with the Information Security and Risk Management team at Johnson & Johnson, a reminder of where these summits can lead.

WHY IT MATTERS

Earth Day 2026 called on citizens to use their power. CyberEarth answers by giving students the skills to use it well: securing the control systems behind clean water and energy, building the Ai models that forecast storms and protecting the data that shows how the planet is changing. After ten years, BDPA's message holds. The next guardians of the globe are already in the room. **bt**

CYBEREARTH THROUGH THE YEARS

2017	BDPA DC launches #CyberEarth17
2022	CyberEarth22 convenes in April
2023	Reston, Virginia, on Earth Day
2025	Columbia, Maryland: "Guardians of the Globe"
2026	Lorton, Virginia: 10th annual summit

SAVE THE DATE

BDPA DC's HOPE Project IT Summit, focused on cybersecurity, comes to the Wayne K. Curry Administration Building in Largo, Maryland, on June 27, 2026. BDPACON26 follows at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis, July 15 to 18, 2026.

Sources: bdpatoday, "CyberEarth '26: 10th Annual Earth Day Tech Summit (BDPA NoVa)" and "10th Annual Earth Day Tech Summits" event listings (April 2026); bdpatoday, "BDPA NoVa Launches 2026 High School Computer Competition" (Jan. 24, 2026) and "BDPA Student Member Accepts Internship with J&J" (Apr. 1, 2026); bdpadc.org; EARTHDAY.ORG, 2026 theme announcement (Jan. 14, 2026); bdpatoday, "STEM Expo 2026." Cover photo April 18, 2026.

EARTH DAY | HISTORY | 1970 TO 2026

From a Campus Teach In to a Global Movement: The Story of Earth Day

WASHINGTON: The first Earth Day, on April 22, 1970, grew from an idea by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, who had watched the damage from the 1969 oil spill off Santa Barbara, California. Nelson proposed a national teach in on the environment, recruited Congressman Pete McCloskey of California as cochair and tapped a young organizer, Denis Hayes, as national coordinator. They chose a weekday in April that fell between spring break and final exams so college students could take part.



Earth from space, rendered from NASA Blue Marble imagery.

The response stunned the nation. Roughly 20 million Americans, about one in ten people in the country at the time, joined rallies, cleanups and teach ins in cities, on campuses and in classrooms. By December 1970 the Environmental Protection Agency had opened its doors, and the Clean Air Act of 1970 was soon followed by the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

In 1990 Hayes took the day global, mobilizing about 200 million people in 141 countries and giving recycling a worldwide boost. On Earth Day 2016, world leaders gathered at the United Nations to sign the Paris Agreement, and in 2020 the 50th anniversary moved online during the pandemic.

Technology has always been part of the story. The Earthrise photograph from Apollo 8 in 1968 and the Blue Marble from Apollo 17 in 1972 gave people a new view of a fragile planet. Today satellites, sensors and Ai models track air quality, sea level, forests and ice in near real time.

For 2026, EARTHDAY.ORG chose the theme “Our Power, Our Planet,” urging town halls, teach ins, cleanups and voter registration drives throughout Earth Week, with a day of action on Saturday, April 18. That same day BDPA NoVa hosted CyberEarth '26 (see page 4), carrying the teach in tradition into the age of cybersecurity and Ai. bt

20M	141	2016
AMERICANS JOINED THE FIRST EARTH DAY, 1970	COUNTRIES TOOK PART IN EARTH DAY 1990	PARIS AGREEMENT SIGNED ON EARTH DAY

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TECHNOLOGY | EARTH DAY DOMAINS | APRIL 2026

AIR, LAND, SEA, SPACE AND CYBER: THE ADVANCED TECH GUARDING EVERY EARTH DAY DOMAIN

From a crewed flight around the Moon to quantum safe encryption, April 2026 showed that protecting the planet now runs through the same five domains BDPA uses to frame its CyberEarth summits.

WASHINGTON: Earth Day began as a call to clean the air, the land and the water. Fifty six years later, the planet's guardians also work in orbit and in cyberspace. April 2026 delivered milestones in every domain, and each one depends on a workforce that can build, secure and govern advanced technology.

SPACE: ARTEMIS II COMES HOME

NASA's Artemis II lifted off from Kennedy Space Center on April 1 at 6:35 p.m. ET, carrying Commander Reid Wiseman, Pilot Victor Glover, Mission Specialist Christina Koch and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen on the first crewed flight around the Moon since 1972. After a voyage of about 10 days and 695,081 miles, Orion splashed down in the Pacific off San Diego on April 10. Glover became the first Black astronaut to travel to the vicinity of the Moon. Closer to home, Earth observation satellites such as the joint NASA and ISRO radar mission NISAR, launched in 2025, map shifting land, ice and forests, the data behind the careers presenters described at CyberEarth '26.

AIR: DRONES AND COUNTER DRONES

Uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) now monitor wildfire smoke, methane leaks, crops and storm damage, while NASA's TEMPO instrument measures air pollution over North America from geostationary orbit. Rules are racing to catch up. The FAA's long awaited beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) rule remained under review this spring, and the Safer Skies Act in the FY2026 National Defense Authorization Act gave state and local agencies authority to use approved counter UAS (cUAS) equipment under federal guidelines. Host cities for the FIFA World Cup, which opens June 11, are first in line for cUAS training.

LAND: V2X AND THE CONNECTED ROAD

Vehicle to everything (V2X) technology lets cars, traffic signals and roadside units talk to each other to prevent crashes, smooth traffic and cut idling and emissions. FCC rules now allow cellular V2X in the upper 5.9 GHz band, and the U.S. Department of Transportation's national deployment plan targets broad V2X coverage of the National Highway System by 2036. On the same land, industrial control systems run the water plants and power grids that a clean energy economy depends on, the very systems CyberEarth students learned to defend.

SEA: SENSORS BELOW THE SURFACE

Uncrewed surface and undersea vehicles, ocean buoys and Ai models now track sea temperature, currents and storm surge in near real time. The same seafloor holds the undersea cables that carry the vast majority of international internet traffic, making maritime cybersecurity an environmental and economic issue. On April 19, the Navy League's STEM Expo 2026 brought students in grades 5 through 12 face to face with sea service technology.

CYBER: QUANTUM MEETS PQC

April 14 marked World Quantum Day. Quantum computers promise breakthroughs in battery chemistry, carbon capture catalysts and climate simulation, but a large enough machine could also break today's public key encryption. That is why agencies are moving to post quantum cryptography (PQC) built on NIST's 2024 standards, FIPS 203 for key establishment and FIPS 204 and 205 for digital signatures, before adversaries can "harvest now, decrypt later." NSA's CNSA 2.0 guidance expects new national security system purchases to support quantum resistant algorithms starting January 1, 2027. On World Quantum Day itself, the Senate Commerce Committee advanced the National Quantum Initiative Reauthorization Act with a national quantum cybersecurity migration strategy folded in (see page 8).

WHAT IT MEANS

Every domain now runs on software, sensors and secure networks. The students at CyberEarth '26 who learned about ICS security, Ai and satellite engineering are training for jobs that sit at the intersection of technology and the planet. For BDPA's SITES scholars, the message of Earth Day 2026 is clear: our power to protect the planet increasingly lives in code. **bt**

APRIL 2026 DOMAINS AT A GLANCE

SPACE
Artemis II Lunar Flyby
695,081 mi
Distance flown by four astronauts around the Moon and home
April 1 to 10, 2026

AIR
Counter UAS Authority
June 11
FIFA World Cup opens; host cities first for state and local cUAS training
Safer Skies Act, FY2026 NDAA

LAND
National V2X Plan
2036
USDOT target for broad V2X coverage of the National Highway System
Cellular V2X in the 5.9 GHz band

SEA
Navy League STEM Expo 2026
April 19
Free STEM showcase for students in grades 5 through 12 in Maryland
Gaylord National Resort

CYBER
CNSA 2.0 Milestone
Jan. 1, 2027
New national security systems expected to support quantum resistant algorithms
NSA guidance

QUANTUM
World Quantum Day
April 14
Senate Commerce advances National Quantum Initiative reauthorization with 7 amendments
Washington, April 14, 2026

Sources: NASA, Artemis II mission coverage (Apr. 1 to 11, 2026); Nextgov/FCW, "Senate committee approves quantum reauthorization bill with 7 amendments" (Apr. 14, 2026); DroneLife, "Public safety drone leaders discuss what comes next for cUAS, BVLOS and airspace integration" (Mar. 10, 2026); USDOT, "Saving Lives with Connectivity: A Plan to Accelerate V2X Deployment" (2024); FCC 5.9 GHz rules (2024); NIST FIPS 203, 204 and 205 (Aug. 2024); NSA, CNSA 2.0; Navy League, STEM Expo 2026.

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TECH & POLICY | CAPITOL HILL | 119TH CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION

CONGRESS IN APRIL: FISA, QUANTUM, A DHS REOPENING & A NEW WAVE OF Ai BILLS

Lawmakers renewed a surveillance authority in stages, advanced quantum research and chip export controls, reopened most of Homeland Security and introduced new bills on Ai, data privacy and data centers.

WASHINGTON: April opened with the Department of Homeland Security still shut down from the funding lapse that began in February. On April 30, after roughly 75 days, the House passed a bipartisan measure funding most of DHS, including the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), TSA, FEMA, the Coast Guard and the Secret Service, and the President signed it that afternoon. The bill provides about $64.4 billion in discretionary funding and $20 million for CISA positions focused on threats from China, while immigration enforcement funding moves on a separate track. CISA still faces a long recovery after staff losses and a vacant director's post.

Surveillance policy dominated the middle of the month. The House voted 235 to 191 for a three year reauthorization of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act without a warrant requirement for searches of Americans' data, and House leaders attached an unrelated ban on a Federal Reserve central bank digital currency. With the chambers apart, Congress passed a 30 day extension and then a Senate 45 day extension. In committee, House Armed Services approved the Semiconductor Controls Effectiveness Act 43 to 0, and House Foreign Affairs advanced the Stop Stealing our Chips Act 43 to 1, the STRIDE Act 44 to 0 and the Full Ai Stack Export Promotion Act 37 to 7.

PASSED ONE CHAMBER OR COMMITTEE | APRIL 2026

DHS Appropriations: Most of Homeland Security Reopened

PASSED HOUSE | SIGNED APRIL 30

Ends a record lapse of roughly 75 days. Funds CISA, TSA, FEMA, the Coast Guard and the Secret Service, with $20 million for CISA China threat positions.

National Quantum Initiative Reauthorization Act

REPORTED | SENATE COMMERCE, APRIL 14

Sens. Todd Young (R, Ind.) and Maria Cantwell (D, Wash.). Seven amendments add a quantum manufacturing institute, testbeds and a national quantum cybersecurity migration strategy.

Stop the Scroll Act (S. 1885) No Fentanyl on Social Media Act (S. 3618)

REPORTED | SENATE COMMERCE

Sen. Katie Britt (R, Ala.) and Sen. Jon Husted (R, Ohio). Online safety measures for young users, ordered reported with amendments.

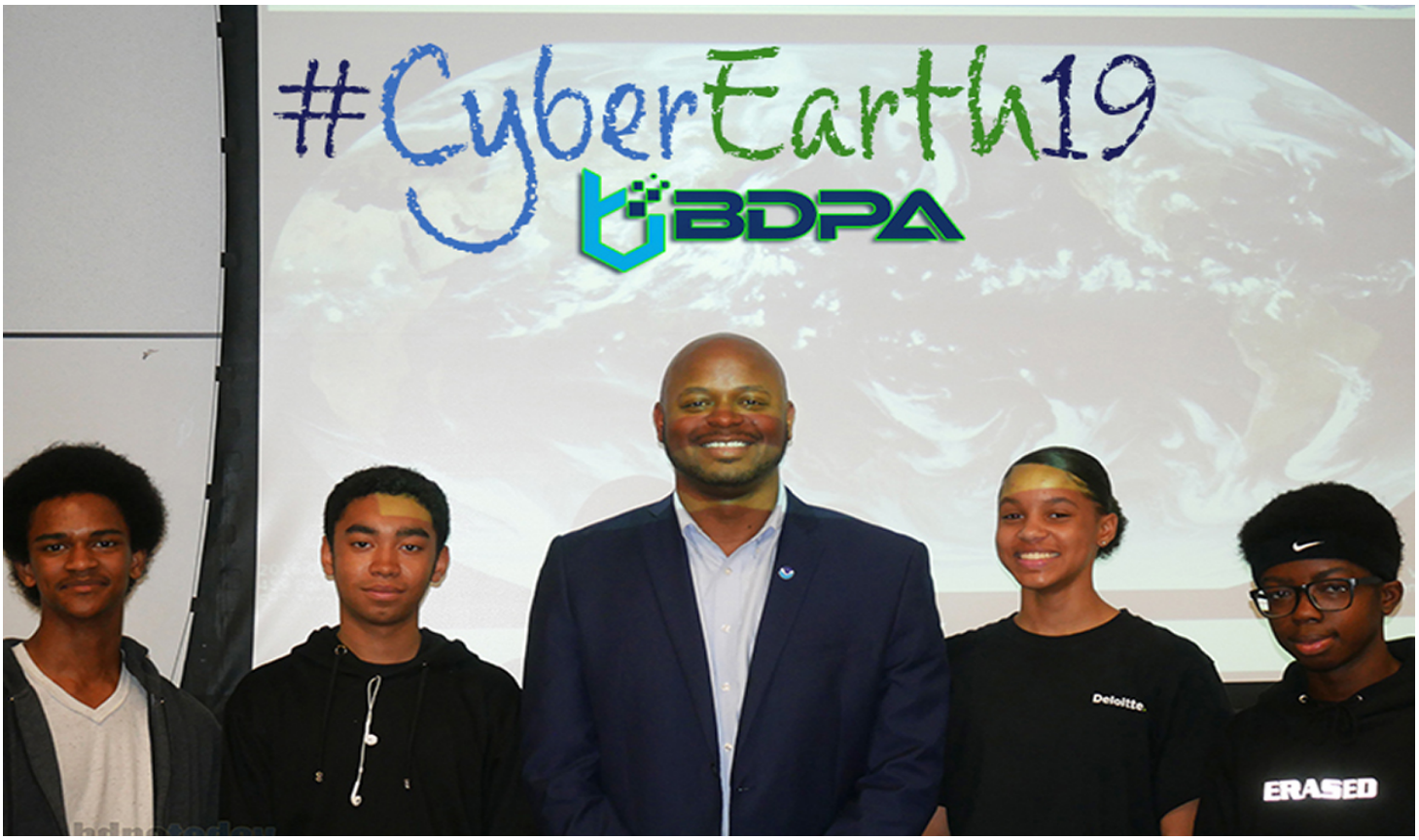
NEW TECH BILLS INTRODUCED | APRIL 2026

BILL	SPONSOR	WHAT IT WOULD DO
SECURE Data Act (H.R. 8413)	Rep. John Joyce (R, Pa.)	Create a federal privacy standard that preempts state laws
CREATE Ai Act (S. 4441)	Sen. Todd Young (R, Ind.)	Expand shared national Ai research resources for researchers and students
Economy of the Future Commission Act (S. 4046 / H.R. 8345)	Sen. Mark Warner (D, Va.); Rep. Jay Obernolte (R, Calif.)	Create a commission to study Ai's impact on the economy
Ai Data Center Site Selection Transparency Act (H.R. 8488)	Rep. LaMonica McIver (D, N.J.)	Bring transparency to how Ai data center sites are chosen
Protecting Consumers From Deceptive Ai Act (H.R. 8479)	Rep. Valerie Foushee (D, N.C.)	Protect consumers from deceptive Ai generated content
Ai Children's Toy Safety Act (H.R. 8382)	Rep. Blake Moore (R, Utah)	Set safety guardrails for Ai powered children's toys
GUARD Financial Data Act (H.R. 8398)	Rep. Bill Huizenga (R, Mich.)	Strengthen data protection at financial institutions
MATCH Act (S. 4281)	Sen. Pete Ricketts (R, Neb.)	Align allied export controls on chipmaking technology
PRICE Act (S. 4401 / H.R. 8510)	Sen. Ben Ray Luján (D, N.M.); Rep. Daniel Goldman (D, N.Y.)	Require delivery apps to show all in order prices

WHAT TO WATCH IN 2026

FISA Section 702: The short term extensions buy time for the Senate to settle the warrant debate before the authority lapses again. **Quantum:** The National Quantum Initiative reauthorization now heads to the Senate floor. **CISA:** The fiscal 2027 request proposes about $707 million in program cuts, including election security work, as the agency rebuilds after the shutdown. **bt**

Sources: Tech Policy Press, "April 2026 US Tech Policy Roundup" (May 1, 2026); Nextgov/FCW, "Senate committee approves quantum reauthorization bill with 7 amendments" (Apr. 14, 2026); GovInfoSecurity, "DHS Shutdown Ends as CISA Faces Long Recovery" (Apr. 30, 2026); Congress.gov. Status as of April 30, 2026.

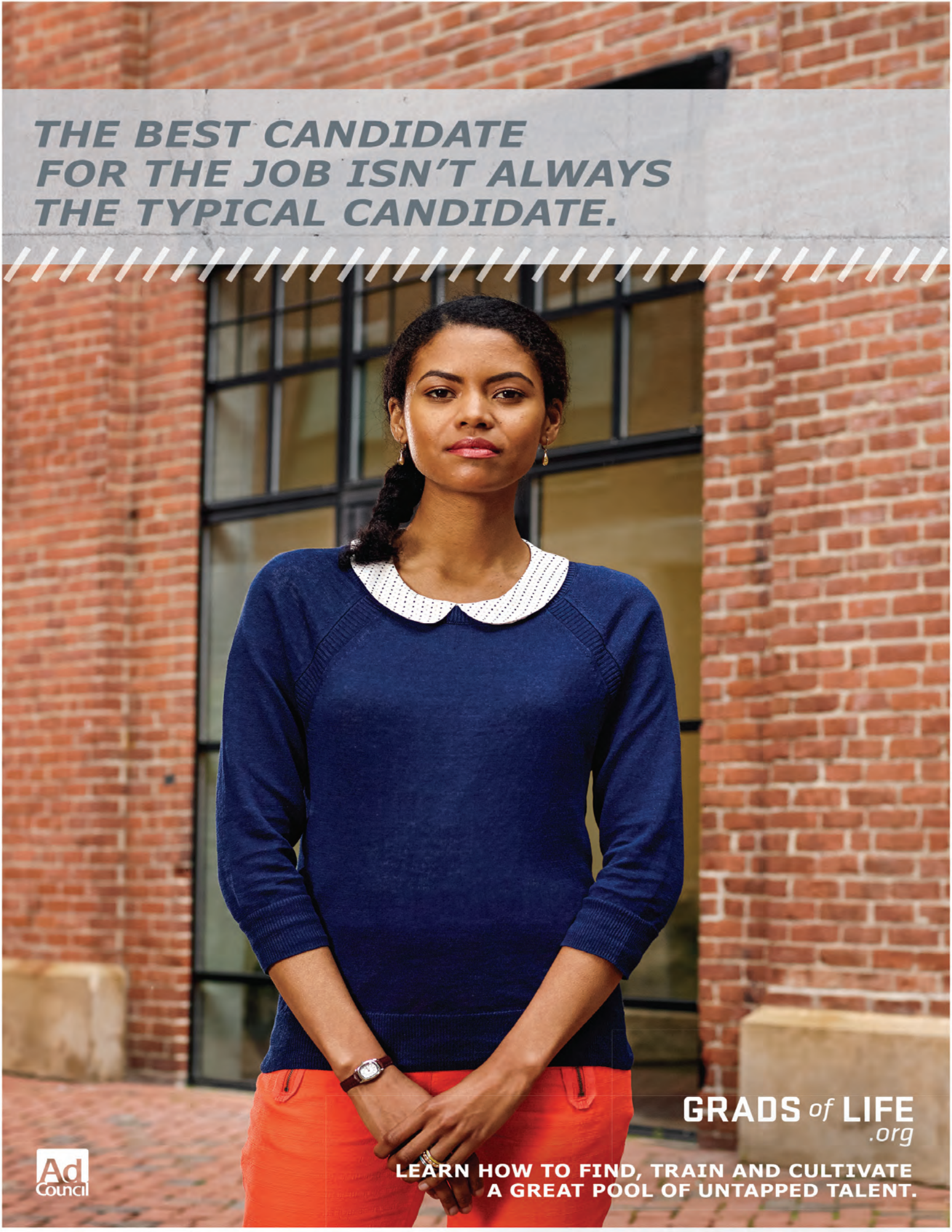


▲ ***(TopPhoto)*** Dr. DaNa Carlis (center), meteorologist, mathematician, and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Program Office program manager, was the Association's featured presenter during ***CyberEarth '19***. ***— BDPA™ photo ©2019 bdpatoday®***

▼ ***(Bottom Photo) CyberEarth '23*** took place on Saturday, April 22, 2023 (Earth Day). It was held in Reston, Virginia at Octo's ***oLABS*** center for innovation. The ***CyberEarth '23*** Theme: SMART Cities • Agri-Tech • Cybersecurity • Climate Resilience *— BDPA™ photo ©2023 bdpatoday®*




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