



Michael Stanton USAF Cyber Scholarship

2023 Scholarship Amount: \$1,500

Boise ISSA is proud to offer an annual scholarship each spring to qualified candidates:

- USAF recruit, ROTC, active, retired, Air Guard, Civil Air Patrol or similar is required.
- Pursuing training or degree in cybersecurity.
- Must be a person of character and service unto others.

Scholarship applications are accepted in the month of April - May of each calendar year. To apply for this scholarship candidates may submit a 350-500 word submission (~2 pages) on why they are the best candidate for the scholarship and how they intend to serve their country and people. Boise ISSA officers and/or sub-committees review candidates to select the best forerunner(s) followed by a 30-minute interview, conducted in May of each calendar year.

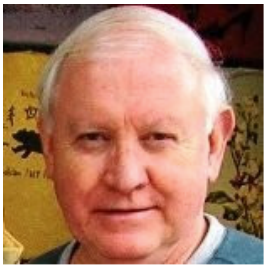
The winner of the scholarship is announced at the Boise ISSA annual members only meeting in June of each year, with the awardee receiving a complimentary one-year ISSA membership along with their scholarship.

Former Awardees

Spencer McConnell of the Civil Air Patrol received our first ever scholarship! Pictured with him are Barb Stanton, Randy Deshazer, and Ken Dunham:



About Michael Stanton



Michael Stanton served as a faithful backbone of the Boise ISSA startup since near its inception at the turn of the century. For over 16 years he served in various roles working hard to promote cybersecurity to our community and beyond. He lost his battle against cancer in June 2021.

Michael had a bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York; an MBA from Golden Gate University, San Francisco, CA; and a master's degree in Information Technology from American Intercontinental University, Chicago, IL. Graduating from **West Point** in 1973, Michael was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force and spent the next 28 years as a frontline combat aviator in a variety of missions, including electronic combat, air superiority, air defense, †surface attack, and reconnaissance. He is a graduate of the Air Force Fighter Weapons School (**Top Gun**) and was a member of the initial cadre of aviators in the EF-111A Tactical Jamming System program.

Prior to joining ACHD, Michael was the Program Chair for the School of Information Technology at the Boise, Idaho campus of ITT Technical Institute. Teaching in the Information Systems Cybersecurity program at ITT Tech, Michael's passion was in the areas of infrastructure (router, switch) security, data security and compliance. More recently, Michael was one of five members of ISSA who were inducted into the **ISSA International Fellows** class of 2019.

Boise Community Comments

The following comments were received on Michael's behalf following his departure from this world. Boise ISSA prefers individuals with a character and spirit that reflects that of our revered Mr. Stanton, evidenced in comments below.

Michael was always the first one to greet you at ISSA meetings and would ensure everyone was checked in and ready to go.

-Brandon Cheyney

Michael has definitely been a consistent presence and servant to our community throughout the years. So sorry to hear about his passing.

-Kevin Iwersen

I only met Michael a few times, but he was a class act and a great contributor.

-Eric Cowperthwaite

I'm still seeing if I will be able to attend Michael's Celebration of Life but wanted to at least express my sincere condolences to Michael's family and friends. To me Michael was the face of the Boise ISSA Chapter. He was always there greeting me with a smile and friendly handshake when I came through the doors at our monthly meetings. I haven't been to those meetings in a while but not seeing Michael's face when I do attend again makes me sad. Please let his family know that he will be greatly missed and never be forgotten.

-Dan Green

I am so sad to hear that Michael has passed; I always had a lot of respect for him. Please let me know if there is any way that I can help contribute to any care package that is being sent. I will always miss Michael and will pray for him and Barb.

-Shannon Hirsch

I'm so sorry to hear this Ken. I never met Michael but spoke with him a few times. My condolences to his family and the Boise ISSA community.

-Sean Bakke

I loved working with him. Such an amazing and kind human. He will certainly be missed.

-K. Parker Harger

Michael was a fantastic human being. A pleasure to know him. He will leave a great legacy.

-Eli Booth

Michael was a rock for the Boise chapter during my time as an officer and long after. He will truly be missed by all who knew him and respected his quiet strength.

-Sharon Tabor

He will definitely be missed in the Security family in Boise.

-Dennis McLaughlin

I'm so sad to hear this. Please tell Barb how much I respected Michael and enjoyed his smile at every ISSA event. He was a good man. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, colleagues, and friends.

-Dan DeCloss

I just want Barb and the rest of Michael's family to know how wonderful Mike was to know, and how much my heart goes out to you during this time of loss. I had the pleasure of knowing and interacting with Mike over the last few years with ISSA. He was a rock of stability, someone you could count on even when you had not asked for something specifically, he was there. He was wonderful to discuss technical topics on security with, and so willing to share his experiences and knowledge. He was quick to shake your hand and greet you with a warm smile, making you feel like you were a long lost friend. That is such a rare quality these days. Some of the funniest moments I enjoyed with Mike were when he would make sure the ISSA chapter didn't get cheated by shady vendors or members who weren't willing to pay their dues. It always made me laugh when I saw someone try to pull one over on him. I would just chuckle to myself because I knew that they had no idea that Mike's BS detector saw them coming a mile away. Ha ha.

I just want you to know Mike was such a rare person to meet in this world. I cannot imagine what you and your family are going through right now, but know that he brightened the world for the rest of us and it was such a pleasure to have known him. I will truly miss him.

-Justin Courtial

It is with a heavy heart that I write this note of sympathy to you and your family. I had no idea Michael had been ill and was shocked to hear of his passing this morning. I worked with Michael organizing at least twenty ISSA events over the years. He was the most patient, gentle, organized, and "no stress" kind of guy. Many of us are very busy in tech, and Michael always had time to answer questions, help with logistics, add late attendees, or do just about anything we asked. And, he always did it with a smile! Michael brightened our day in every way. I don't think he missed a single ISSA event that I attended over the years, and I went to almost all ISSA Meetings since ISSA started in Boise. Michael will surely be missed by all of us. I am thinking of you and your family and wish you peace and comfort as you go through these difficult days ahead. Michael was the backbone of our group and he will be forever remembered and missed by all.

I am honored and blessed to have worked with Michael throughout the years. He leaves a legacy in our group as being a great leader, always exhibiting class in everything he did, and having great trust in people to do their job. Michael was a people person, and never missed a chance to stop and say, "hello" and ask how you were doing. He always had the time that many of us seemed to never have in this high tech world of ours.

May God put him in a special place as he has a special place in all of our hearts. My prayers are with you and your family.

Warmly,
Pamela Massey

It IS sad to hear of Mikes passing, Doc Vark was a retired USAF pilot and flight crew on the F111 bomber back in the dark old cold war days, he stood alert (nuclear deterrence mission) countless times and managed to make it to retirement. I personally credit Mike with influencing the direction of my career in Information Security and credit his tutelage while at ITT-Tech in helping me grasp the importance of my career field and the work we do, and thereby come to a fuller understanding of why we do our work, it was due to this understanding I proceeded to get my MBA to further gain insight of the stake holders I work with and to better serve that community.
My sincere condolences go to Mikes wife Barb and his Family, and to Mike I say,

"Positive Rate, Gear up, And Light the Afterburners"
-Lonnie Holcomb