Michael Lyons

Michael J. Lyons is a senior higher-education technology executive with more than thirty years of experience advancing institutional missions through secure, inclusive, and strategically aligned technology leadership. He currently serves as Assistant Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Massachusetts Bay Community College, where he leads all technology operations across multiple campuses supporting thousands of students, faculty, and staff. His work is grounded in the belief that higher education technology succeeds best when it is collaborative, mission-driven, and focused on people as much as platforms.

Michael has built a career at the intersection of governance, cybersecurity, service excellence, and professional development. He has led multiple five-year IT strategic plans aligned with institutional strategic priorities, equity agendas, and accreditation requirements, and has overseen the implementation of enterprise-wide frameworks including NIST 800-171, GLBA, PCI DSS, and the CIS Critical Security Controls. His leadership has strengthened organizational resilience, improved service delivery, and supported successful NECHE accreditation outcomes.

A defining focus of Michael's work has been regional and statewide collaboration. He currently serves, or has recently served, as Chair of the Massachusetts Public Higher Education CIO Council and as Chair or Co-Chair of the Higher Ed Cybersecurity Coordinating Committee. In these roles, he has helped bring institutions together around shared cybersecurity dashboards, policy alignment, incident readiness, and coordinated responses to emerging risks. He is a strong advocate for collective action, shared services, and peer learning as essential tools for navigating today's complex higher-education technology landscape.

Michael is also deeply committed to professional development and community building. He has co-founded the MassBay Cyber Range and actively supports CAE-aligned cybersecurity education and workforce pathways. As both an executive leader and an adjunct faculty member, he bridges strategy and practice, teaching scripting, automation, and applied AI while mentoring students, early-career professionals, and colleagues

across institutions. He believes strongly in giving back to professional communities that foster growth, leadership development, and inclusion.

For organizations such as NERCOMP, Michael brings a pragmatic, service-oriented leadership style rooted in transparency, collaboration, and continuous improvement. He values the role these communities play in developing leaders, sharing hard-earned lessons, and strengthening higher education as a whole. He is motivated to serve in governance and advisory roles that amplify member voices, expand access to professional development, and ensure that technology leadership remains responsive, ethical, and student-centered. Michael is honored to be considered and is committed to contributing time, experience, and energy in service of the community.