How the completed work supports the goals of the ReImagine Projects

Our work on opening up security offerings is intended to increase access to technical programs to meet unmet needs in the cybersecurity field. Doing so will help us attract new students as well as retain students in the university who might not be able to complete a degree in Computer Science (where all of our current cybersecurity courses reside).

A brief synopsis of the project that will be posted on the OAA ReImagine Projects

The goals of the project were to make our security courses more accessible to students and to expose computer security concepts to a broader audience. The completed work addresses these goals. Specifically,

- A security elective has been added as a requirement for CS majors
- The introductory security course (CS 491) can now be taken by anyone who has completed the lower division of the CS program. The curricula is now available for anyone at PSU to offer (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VX9cd-gtca8_ycDaO_Dk4cSz45gRx6Be) and its labs are publicly available at https://codelabs.cs.pdx.edu/cs491

By decoupling the security courses from the general Computer Science requirements, there is now an opportunity to offer a potential cybersecurity degree for those who are unable to make it into the upper-division CS program (or who drop out).

Whether or not the goals outlined in the proposal were achieved?

Charles Wright and Ellie Harmon both departed the university before the project began. While we were able to successfully make the proposed changes to our Introduction to Computer Security course, due to their departures, we were not able to make progress on integrating security concepts into a general education setting. We are hopeful that a proposed FRINQ sequence starting next fall might include some of the computer security curricula we initially outlined from CyberPDX efforts.