



PROJECT ARES®  
BY CIRCADENCE



## How Inteligenca's 100 Women 100 Days Program with Project Ares Fostered Career Readiness



“We are very excited to continue partnering with Circadence because of Project Ares’ ability to provide simulated hands-on experience to our program’s participants. We look forward to enhancing our student’s learning journey with this great opportunity to build practical cyber skills.”

*CARMEN MARSH, INTELIGENCA*

## THE SITUATION

Carmen Marsh, CEO and Co-Founder launched Inteligenca to provide risk management support for small and mid-size businesses. She soon recognized that a significant challenge for some of her clients was a lack of technology and budget resources to hire professionals with expertise in cybersecurity. To support them, Inteligenca started to funnel qualified cyber talent into businesses that needed better cyber protection as part of risk management improvements. In the process of doing this and through her own talent acquisition processes at Inteligenca, Carmen observed the significant lack of women applicants and came to realize that not only was she trying to

address for a cyber talent gap for small businesses but also a diversity and gender cyber talent gap as well.

Carmen presents at major conferences, giving keynote speeches to raise awareness of the gender gap issue. But this isn't fast enough change for Carmen so she is taking action with the 100 Women 100 Days initiative.

Within the first few days of the launch of the 100 Women 100 Days Accelerator program, Carmen and her team had more than 60 messages from women interested in signing up—proving that the demand for female cyber career training was high.

### ***About 100 Women 100 Days Cybersecurity Career Accelerator***

*The all-inclusive workforce development program provides technical certifications and training by CompTIA using hands-on labs in the Project Ares cyber learning platform by Circadence. Experiential work-based lessons plus mentorship, networking, and apprenticeship opportunities help students in the program prepare to enter and thrive in the cybersecurity workplace—at a 70% faster rate than traditional education paths.*



“We [have] women who are from all different backgrounds; college graduates; veterans; hair stylists; medical billers...women who want to improve their careers. Everyone is different and that’s what makes it so exciting.”

**CARMEN MARSH, INTELIGENCA**

## THE SOLUTION

Carmen recognized that hands-on learning was critical to success for any woman seeking a career in cybersecurity. She learned about Project Ares from a peer who taught cyber classes and decided to investigate the solution as a lab component to augment the 100 Women 100 Days program.

Carmen brought in Michael Kaplan of Phase2Advantage to teach the Introduction to Cyber Forensics featuring Project Ares. The online and virtual group instruction introduced students to topics like network forensic investigations, enterprise network devices, investigative principles and Windows System environments – and more. The course was 10 weeks long and included 40 hours of course instruction plus additional teaching support for students. Michael helped program participants build the knowledge needed for future cyber internships, apprenticeships, and ultimately, a career in cyber.

**100% of course evaluation respondents who completed the training program said they would use Project Ares labs again to learn other cyber skills and competencies.**

*100 Women 100 Days Student Group*



## THE BENEFITS

Since the 100 Women 100 Days Cybersecurity Career Accelerator launched, **three cohorts have been taught cybersecurity fundamentals and specialties**. Companies of all sizes that seek to diversify their cyber staff will benefit from considering graduates of Inteligenca's program.

As students are applying to jobs, Carmen said, they can demonstrate "oh yeah I've done this and here's how I did it" to hiring managers. They can be much more successful in an interview and their chances of getting hired will be greater, she said. Plus, the Accelerator program offers employers confidence that they are considering a candidate who can step in and own a project (They won't have to spend time teaching them everything from the bottom-up). It sits well on both ends.



"Many [cyber] professionals working today have been trained to think in certain, traditional ways. So how do you get ahead of the curve? How do you make progress when you're fighting the global threats? When people are trained traditionally in same way, with the same information...it is hard to make any progress and build a defense as strong as we need it to be."

*CARMEN MARSH, INTELIGENCA*

With the 100 Women 100 Days Cybersecurity Career Accelerator, diversity of thinking is cultivated so new employees begin to enter the workforce bringing new thinking, new behaviors, new problem-solving skills to the business table.

"We need women's ways of thinking in cyber for these reasons," said Carmen.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Diversity of thought is becoming essential to building strong cyber defenses for organizations of all sizes.

“The global community has to come together to build a workforce that works together and keeps each other alert and aware, so we can build a better defense system. We are not aligned yet globally and that’s causing vulnerabilities in our defense system against bad actors and it’s why upskilling the future workforce is so critical,” said Carmen.

Inteligenca plans to make Project Ares a permanent addition to the 100 Women 100 Days program. “It’s proven to be well-received by students and we see how interactive and engaged they have been using the platform in class,” said Carmen.



“Aside from the informative labs, the libraries and side games to further drive home information were a perfect combination of teaching styles.

I know the skills I have [developed] and will develop using Autopsy, Wireshark and more will only further enhance my confidence in interviews and hands on experience in future jobs.”

*NICOLE MENDOZA, PROJECT ARES STUDENT*



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Project Ares by Circadence® is an award-winning platform of hands-on cybersecurity labs that enhance competency-based education. For practical experience that is as true-to-life as it gets, Project Ares labs include authentic security tools in immersive scenarios on a cyber range. Cybersecurity educators and instructors trust Project Ares labs to enhance the learning experience of every aspiring and seasoned cyber professional.

Visit [www.circadence.com](http://www.circadence.com) to learn more.