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## THE FIVE PRACTICES THAT CREATE EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP

Guest Speaker: Mary Ann Kmetyk,  
*Applied Performance Strategies*

**March 25, 2014**  
**11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

DoubleTree by Hilton  
1726 Reisterstown Rd • Pikesville, MD

### Our upcoming meetings in the spring!

#### NAWBO NETWORKING

April 22, 2014 • 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

#### 2014 WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS EVENT

June 24, 2014 • 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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## RYAN McDONALD

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### RYAN'S TAKE

# NSA chief touts cyber laws

National Security Agency Chief Gen. Keith B. Alexander isn't leaving his post quietly. He still has plenty to say about Edward Snowden, the media and the nation's cyber security efforts.

He told a conference at Georgetown University on March 4 that leaks by former agency contractors Snowden and Chelsea, formerly Bradley, Manning have made it difficult for the U.S. to protect itself from cyber attacks.

The outgoing director of the National Security Agency, Alexander said that the leaks have caused significant and irreversible damage to the U.S. and have negatively impacted cyber legislation.

"An attack on Wall Street, or an exploit on Wall Street, NSA and Cyber Command would probably not see that," he said. "We have no capability there."

Alexander said Internet service pro-

viders and others are forbidden from sharing information with the federal government because of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act and Stored Communications Act.

There have been more than 200 attacks against Wall Street over the past 18 months that could have halted trading, he said. He said government needs to be able to do more to stop future attacks on the private sector.

"We have to have the red lines, the policies," he said. "We're working our way through the policy but the key thing that we need is legislation."

The commander of U.S. Cyber Command said without proper legislation, the U.S. will not be able to protect valuable civilian targets. "We have capabilities to help defend the nation, but we don't have a way of sharing them back and forth."

The U.S. needs to view protecting Wall Street as protecting a country, he



FILE PHOTO

National Security Agency Chief Gen. Keith B. Alexander is retiring.

said. Rather than collecting emails, the NSA needs to know what type of exploitation is happening, where it's coming from and where it's going. And that information should be shared with all government agencies so they can all work together, he said.

### ► BY THE NUMBERS

## 209,749

The number of cyber security jobs listed nationally in 2013

## 10,627

The number of cyber security jobs posted in Maryland in 2013

## 4,514

The number of cyber security jobs listed in Baltimore in 2013

BURNING GLASS

### EYE ON A STARTUP

## Professor starts firm to teach security



Nischit Vaidya

The founder of a Laurel cyber security consulting and training company runs the firm out of his house. If he has it his way, it will stay like that for the next several years.

Nischit Vaidya founded Argotis Inc. last year with a mission to train and educate businesses, government, colleges and universities on securing their data.

Citing recent data breaches at major retailers like Target Corp. and the University of Maryland, Vaidya said the goal is to develop curriculum for employers to then use and teach their employees about cyber security.

A former professor at Howard County Community College and Com-

munity College of Baltimore County, Vaidya, who moved to Maryland from India when he was 7 years old, said he was tired of being just another employee and wanted to use his teaching roots for a better purpose.

"If you want your own message out there, you have to do it yourself," he said.

Argotis's only customer right now is the University of California, Irvine, which contacted Vaidya to help develop a curriculum for the university's client Northrop Grumman.

Vaidya said the contract with the university began in October and runs through the summer, although he would not provide more specifics about the financials of the agreement.

Argotis is teaching the university security architecture and security design, he said. Essentially showing them how computers connect and then how to build a network, he said.

With only three employees including him, Vaidya said Argotis is operated virtually and that he has no immediate plans to acquire office space.

"For a startup company, there really isn't a reason to have office space," he said. "Our goal is to find partners and other team members to provide training consulting."

Vaidya said acquiring office space would be too costly and require the company to charge more for the services it provides.

"By not having much overhead it keeps costs down and we can keep rates down for our customers," he added.

Argotis is profitable and Vaidya said he expects to see revenue of around \$15,000 by the end of the year. Argotis hasn't been seeking any outside funding because it is focused on providing services, not developing a product, Vaidya said.



## 2014 STATE OF DOWNTOWN BREAKFAST

**March 27**  
**7:30-9:30am**  
Lord Baltimore Hotel  
20 W. Baltimore Street  
MEMBERS: FREE  
NON-MEMBERS: \$75

Join the region's top business leaders as Downtown Partnership of Baltimore releases the *State of Downtown Report* and presents a CEO Roundtable offering insight on why more and more businesses choose Downtown.



Register online at  
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