

*Note: below are five nomination letters for Sam Maroon. We do not publish direct contact information nor the names of the individuals who nominated him.*

## ***FISSEA EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD***

***Name of Nominee:*** Sam Maroon

***Employing Organization:*** FITSI Foundation / Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy

***Position and/or Title:*** Founder and Instructor

***Qualifications Statement: (What has the nominee done to warrant this nomination?)***

I nominate Mr. Sam Maroon of the FITSI Foundation / Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy for FISSEA Educator of the Year:

It is my belief that Sam Maroon deserves this award for his tireless work in supporting our Nation's injured servicemen and woman in transitioning them to the cyber battlefield. In 2012 Sam Maroon approached me about an idea regarding training Wounded Warriors in cybersecurity. In September of 2012 Sam helped me with the logistics in setting up the FITSI Foundation (a 501c3 public charity) for the primary purpose of establishing an academy known as the Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy (W2CCA). The mission of the Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy (W2CCA) is to "To Build the Next Generation of Cyber Defenders by Cross-Training the League of Wounded Warriors to help Protect and Defend the Nation's Information Systems. The W2CCA program does this by training Wounded Warriors in over a dozen cybersecurity certifications to empower them to pursue high paying jobs in an industry with an extremely lower unemployment rate.

Over the past 2 years Sam has spent a tremendous amount of time and effort working with members of the first group of Wounded Warriors. He has taken an interest in ensuring that each warrior is mentored and schooled in foundational IT as well as cybersecurity knowledge, skills and ability.

The element which is most impressive to me is that in the last 12 months he has donated no fewer than 300 hours of his own personal time to train members of Cyber Team 1, at night and during the weekend all while not receiving one ounce of monetary gain! In addition to the time donation of teaching, Sam has also donated countless hours to helping promote and network the program at industry events, seminars, woman's group and doing anything and everything to help push the program forward.

For his selfless giving back to those who have given so much to our great nation, I cannot think of an individual who is more deserving of the title "Educator of the Year" than Mr. Sam Maroon.

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# 2<sup>nd</sup> NOMINATION FORM

## *FISSEA EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD*

*Name of Nominee:* Sam Maroon

*Employing Organization:* FITSI Foundation / Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy

*Position and/or Title:* Founder & Instructor

*Qualifications Statement: (What has the nominee done to warrant this nomination?)*

I nominate Mr. Sam Maroon of the FITSI Foundation / Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy for FISSEA Educator of the Year:

Mr. Maroon deserves this award for his unflagging work supporting this country's injured servicemen and women in transitioning them to the cyber battlefield through the Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy. The mission of the Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy (W2CCA) is to "To Build the Next Generation of Cyber Defenders by Cross-Training the League of Wounded Warriors to help Protect and Defend the Nation's Information Systems. The W2CCA program does this by training Wounded Warriors in over a dozen cybersecurity certifications to empower them to pursue high paying jobs in an industry with an extremely lower unemployment rate. These Warriors gave so much of themselves on the battlefield and now deserve the opportunity to continue to support their country and their families. Sam's devotion to this cadre of warriors speaks volumes to his passion for education.

In the last 12 months Sam has donated at least 300 hours of his own personal time to train members of W2CCA Cyber Team 1. Much of this training is done at night and during the weekend. Sam does not get paid for his time. He is simply dedicated to these Warriors and to helping them have a greater future. Sam also donates countless hours to helping promote and network the program at every opportunity.

For his selfless giving back to those who have given so much to our great nation, I wholeheartedly nominate Mr. Maroon an educator deserving of the title "Educator of the Year."

# 3<sup>rd</sup> NOMINATION FORM

peggy.hines@nist.gov



## NOMINATION FORM

### FISSEA EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Please review the nomination information including the due date provided on the FISSEA website before completing the form.

Name of Nominee: Sam Maroon  
Employing Organization: FITSI Foundation / Wounded Warriors Program  
Position and/or Title: Founder and Instructor  
Nominee's Phone Number: 703 302 3182  
Nominee's E-mail Address: Sammaroon@gmail.com

Qualifications Statement: (What has the nominee done to warrant this nomination?)

I nominate (full name and title) of (organization) for FISSEA Educator of the Year:

I nominate Sam Maroon of FITSI for the FISSEA Educator of the Year:

I work with Sam at the State Dept and have witnessed his dedication to the field and how he has reached out to our

wounded warriors to bring them into the field.

Much of his work is volunteer. Sam is very dedicated and is a good candidate for this Award.

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# 4<sup>th</sup> NOMINATION FORM

## *FISSEA EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD*

*Name of Nominee:* Sam Maroon

*Employing Organization:* FITSI Foundation /Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy

*Position and/or Title:* Founder and Instructor

*Qualifications Statement: (What has the nominee done to warrant this nomination?)*

I nominate Mr. Sam Maroon of FITSI for FISSEA Educator of the Year:

Sam Maroon is an exceptional instructor. I have witnessed his talents for the last year and a half while serving as Division Director of Research Learning and Development at the school of Applied Information Technology (SAIT) at the Foreign Service Institute. I speak with Sam on a daily basis on a professional and personal level and it is with the utmost sincerity that I nominate him for the FISSEA Educator of the Year Award.

Sam is a dedicated professional while he is at his job here at SAIT but, more importantly, he spends the majority of his remaining time working with the wounded warriors via the FITSI Foundation. Sam continually updates me on the progress of the warriors. His dedication to them and their future is obvious from the way he relates the joys of their successes and the heartbreak of their setbacks. Sam remains keenly aware of the mindset, fears, and hurdles each of the warriors face. His sensitive, caring and mindful dedication to these warriors is a reflection of Sam's true nature.

Of course, the success of the wounded warriors and the program itself are the direct result of Sam's involvement. He lobbies hard to garner support from contributors and works tirelessly with other agencies to ensure opportunities for graduating warriors. Above all this, Sam still finds time to serve as their instructor. He spends weekends and nights with them to ensure they have a firm grasp of the material and are prepared, not only for the challenges of each certification, but also for the application of the material on the cyber battlefield.

Sam is truly deserving of the title of FISSEA "Educator of the Year".

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# 5<sup>th</sup> NOMINATION FORM

## ***FISSEA EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD***

***Name of Nominee:*** Sam Maroon

***Employing Organization:*** FITSI Foundation / Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy

***Position and/or Title:*** Founder and Instructor

***Qualifications Statement: (What has the nominee done to warrant this nomination?)***

I nominate Mr. Sam Maroon of the FITSI Foundation / Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy for FISSEA Educator of the Year:

Sam Maroon is an amazing man whom dedicates endless hours supporting our Wounded Warriors returning home and retraining them for our Nation's new battlefield; the cyber front. He is a Co-Founder of the Wounded Warrior Cyber Combat Academy (W2CCA) which is run by the FITSI Foundation. The FITSI Foundation is a non-profit who runs the W2CCA program. The mission of the W2CCA is to build the next generation of cyber defenders by cross-training the league of wounded warriors to help protect and defend the Nation's information systems.

The W2CCA works with the Walter Reed Transition Center to find the right candidates for an intensive 18 month program that leverages certifications from CompTIA, SCP, ISC2 and EC-Council to build a ladder of training and certification in offensive security. The program also includes a hands on assessments which will act as the capstone for the project and several government agencies assist the students in building professional experience through internship programs.

Sam supports this organization through teaching the courses, finding internships for the students, preparing the students for their interviews, and mentoring these heroes for a significantly different life after war. What makes Sam amazing, however, is the dedication of all of his time, heart, and soul to ensuring that these men and women succeed in their transition. In addition to his volunteer instructor duties, Sam spends weekends tutoring and even travelled to Norfolk from DC to spend a weekend with one of our remote students. He is committed to their success and will do all he can to ensure it. I have never met a man with the humility and commitment of Sam Maroon and I believe it should be honored with the "Educator of the Year" award.