

# How Grambling State University & Cynet protect students today & prepare them for tomorrow

## Company Background

Since 1901, Grambling State University, in Louisiana, has prepared students to pursue their goals through a broad spectrum of undergraduate and graduate programs. The student body of over 5,000 is served by dedicated educators and administrators, including Chief Information Officer Jay Ellis and his team at the Information Technology Center (ITC). ITC's goal, Jay explains, "is to provide technology support to enhance the learning experience of Grambling State University."

In addition to this critical support, ITC is launching a student-run SOC on campus, leveraging Cynet playbooks to develop the next generation of cybersecurity professionals.

## The Challenge

Education, and higher education in particular, is not immune to the rising tide of cyberattacks spanning sectors. "Ransomware and Phishing are the most pressing threats for security teams in higher education," explains Jay. These threats are increasing in sophistication. "Ransomware has evolved to fileless based attacks versus the traditional method of manipulating a user to opening a file that encrypts data." ITC set out to find a solution they could depend on to secure systems for student success.

Cynet 360 AutoXDR stood out to Jay's team in several respects. "Cynet separates itself from other XDR options with its simplicity and ease of use." This simplicity stems from Cynet's in-house approach to innovation, which keeps navigation seamless and intuitive. "In my experience," reflects Jay, "technology that contains features that were retrofitted after an acquisition usually prevents complete integration and as a result you have siloes."

But Jay says what really sealed the deal was Cynet's end-to-end automated threat protection. "I knew Cynet was the solution for our university when I learned they could provide 24x7 automated detection, protection, remediation, and investigation of cybersecurity threats."



## At a Glance

### Website:

[www.gram.edu](http://www.gram.edu)

### Country:

United States

### Industry:

Higher Education

### Leader:



**Jay J. Ellis**

Chief Information Officer,  
Grambling State University

### Key Quotes:

*"Cynet separates itself from other XDR options with simplicity and ease of use."*

*"Cynet's support resources are a jewel."*

*"Cynet's approach to partnership model separates themselves apart from the competition."*

## THE SOLUTION

Because Cynet packs so many capabilities into a single integrated solution at a reasonable price point, ITC was able to acquire additional needed security technologies. “Cynet’s all-in-one platform paired with higher education budget constraints has really changed the trajectory for Grambling’s cybersecurity posture,” Jay says. “I’ve been able to reallocate funds to address other deficiencies.”

Jay also appreciates the powerful automation to maximize performance and extend the capabilities of ITC staff around the clock. “Due to skills shortage, Cynet continues to provide protection against cybersecurity threats as they evolve,” he says. “We get more alerts during off peak hours and Cynet autopilot gives me a piece of mind that our established playbook will respond with the appropriate course of action.”

But our platform is only part of the story. “Cynet’s support resources are a jewel,” says Jay. “The Cynet Incident Response Plan Template is the foundation for our IR Plan with future plans to incorporate IR assistance to our strategy.”

Collaboration and support are also keys to ITC’s success. “Cynet’s partnership model separates them from the competition,” he says. “Cynet support is very responsive when compared to companies that offer similar services.”

Perhaps most meaningful to our team, on a personal level, is the opportunity for Cynet technology and services to help ITC empower a new generation of security leaders with a student-run SOC. “Our partnership with Cynet has begun to expand,” Jay explains, “and that can be attributed to my trust in Cynet cybersecurity.”

We are proud to help protect the Grambling State University community today while preparing their students for tomorrow.

