opportunity for COE researchers to connect and network with DHS components, federal, and international partners.

Contents of this Month's Update

CINA Welcomes 2020-21 Open RFP White Paper

This RFP is the latest in a series of calls for proposals that CINA has overseen since 2007. Proposals were submitted over a one-month period starting on March 16, 2020 and the RFP closed on April 16, 2020. The open period (June 2020 – June 2021) will be used to support a two-year effort.

The panel included the following areas:

Research Ideas

The RFP solicits proposals on a broad range of topics that address issues ranging from transportation security to human trafficking. The RFP encourages proposals that focus on areas such as:

- Transportation Security
- Human Trafficking
- Technology Integration

CINA continues to welcome the RFP efforts and is working closely with the COE program office to ensure the success of this initiative.

Free Conference and Keynotes

Like previous COE Summits, we also welcome your questions, thoughts, and feedback. If you like, come just to listen and learn. It's a great opportunity to connect with experts from across the nation.

Virtual Hearing - Ending Exploitation: The Need to End Organ, Kidney, and Trafficking

The CINA Virtual Hearing on Thursday, March 25 was a virtual hearing on ending exploitation. The event was hosted by CINA and featured a panel of experts on organ, kidney, and trafficking.

DHS Centers of Excellence Summit 2021

The Centers of Excellence Summit 2021 was held virtually on April 21, 2020. The theme of this year's summit was "Managing Threats and Mitigating Risk in the Digital World." The summit featured a keynote address from Dr. Louise Shelley, the director of the Center for Transnational Threats and Political Violence at Mason.

A grant from the Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis (CINA) Department of Justice will enable Professor of Computer Science at George Mason University, Dr. John Clune, to study blockchain and cryptocurrencies. The grant will support a two-year, $400,000 project to investigate how blockchain technology can be used to combat illicit activities.

The two-year project will be led by Dr. Clune and his research team at George Mason University. The project will focus on understanding the potential of blockchain technology to disrupt illicit activities such as drug trafficking, cybercrime, and identity theft. The team will develop a framework for evaluating the effectiveness of blockchain-based solutions and will work with partners to deploy these solutions in real-world scenarios.

Other partners in the project include the Blockchain Intelligence Group (BIG), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the state of Virginia. The project is expected to conclude in 2022.

In addition to the project at George Mason University, the grant will support two other initiatives at the University of Delaware and the University of Arkansas.

The University of Delaware will receive a grant to study the impact of blockchain technology on supply chain security. The project will focus on developing a blockchain-based solution to improve visibility and accountability in the supply chain. The University of Arkansas will receive a grant to study the role of blockchain technology in addressing cyber security threats.

The grant is part of a larger initiative by the CINA Department of Justice to support research on blockchain technology and its potential applications in combating illicit activities.