Contents of this Month's Update

CINA Welcomes 2020-21 Open RFP White Paper

The DHS Centers of Excellence (COEs) were established by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to improve the nation’s resilience to threats and hazards against terrorism and other disasters. The COEs are federally-funded research, R&D, and education centers that are hosted by leading universities. The centers engage in strategic partnerships with various stakeholders to advance the state of the art in their respective field of research.

The Open RFP (RFp) process allows the COEs to solicit research proposals from potential partners in the private and public sectors. The COEs are seeking projects that align with their mission and strategic goals.

A primary focus of the Open RFP is on projects that can be completed within the next year. Projects should be innovative and have the potential to make a significant impact on the nation’s resilience.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please visit the COE Summit website for more information and to access the RFP.

The 2021 COE Summit will be held on May 19-20. This virtual event will feature keynote addresses and panel discussions from industry leaders and experts.

Attend and participate in meetings and discussion with TSA customer stakeholders. Register online at 2021.coesummit.org.

Recent selection for a highly anticipated internship with the CINA Scholar internship at TSA.

Walton, an Information Systems and Operations Management major at George Mason University, was recently selected for a highly anticipated internship with TSA. The CINA Scholar internship at TSA is a unique opportunity for students to develop skills and experience in the nation’s security operations.

Walton participated in the CINA Scholars program, which provides students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in homeland security.

Tasheonna’s civic service is also impressive; as a volunteer, she strongly supports "Gleaning for the World," packaging materials for disaster victims; assisted "Stop Hunger Now," packing meals for homeless; served on the "Day of Service" with the Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity; read to special education students; and organized a "Make a Difference" day with her local church.

Walton also holds an IC3 certification – Global Standard 5, and is Dell Tech Direct certified. She has developed her knowledge, experience, ability, and imagination, all focused on the problems faced by DHS.

The combined COE-DHS network is formidable, but if there is one thing we have all learned, it is how to leverage and combine our strengths. We have learned when to join forces, when to share, and when to get out of each other's way. This approach has enabled us to tackle some of the most significant challenges facing the nation.

The investment in research and development has paid off. We have seen breakthroughs in technology and methodology that have enabled us to address challenges more effectively.

Addressing risks not yet realized. Striking this balance requires thoughtful planning, careful consideration, open minds, leadership, focus, diligence, discipline, persistence, and action.

Solutions with innovative approaches that solve problems better, faster, and cheaper, while actively dealing with a global pandemic, mass shootings, foreign and domestic terrorism, and actual threats to our safety and security can appear overwhelming. We shouldn't forget to look past the headlines and consider what we can do to make a difference.

For more information about the DHS COE Summit visit the event website at: 2021.coesummit.org.

If you have any questions, please contact dausti@gmu.edu.