THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jim Jones

A big congratulations to CINA Center's research partners on its award-winning project of identifying indicators of high-density crime areas. This project, which is sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has the potential to significantly improve the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in preventing and solving crimes. The project team has shown great dedication and creativity in developing new techniques to analyze data, and I am confident that their findings will have a positive impact on public safety. I am proud to be part of such a talented and innovative team, and I look forward to seeing the results of their work.

RESEARCH

Research using honey bees to solve criminal cases and locate missing persons.

On February 25-27, 2022, a collaboration of DHS Centers of Excellence including CINA offered a virtual Infrastructure Hackathon where students from across the country could hack the cake ourselves. The teams were presented with three problem statements. Each summer, CINA selects faculty and student teams from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to participate in the CINA summer research program. The program provides an opportunity for students to conduct research on topics related to homeland security. Congratulations to our MSI research partners as this year, all three CINA summer research teams conducted their studies at George Mason University's campus in Fairfax, VA. Once the summer program ends, follow-on funding may be awarded to projects that show superior results.

The CINA center pursues a comprehensive set of programs and activities that are designed to support the mission of disabling transnational criminal organizations. Learn more about what our team does to help support these functions by reading our most recent CINA Center Update, an annual report, or the CINA Distinguished Speaker Series.

The CINA Center pursues three categories of workforce and professional development activities related to its mission of disabling transnational criminal organizations. Learn more about the program.

The center is fortunate to have a rich collection of problems thanks to strong relationships with practitioners and subject matter experts, and to have stable funding thanks to the vision and insight of the center's leadership. But the third leg of that stool - data - is much trickier, and it is a critical aspect of what we do - the CINA portfolio is anchored by efforts to discover and model networks from data, and we can't succeed without good data.

Given ethical and privacy concerns, and the relevance of so much open source data, how do we use it? Answer: by understanding exactly what the researchers need (and don't need). For example, some data sources are loaded with personal information, but the personal information is not critical to the research and those sources can be safely collected, cleansed, and then shared. In other cases, the collected and possibly cleansed data can't be openly shared, but can be shared on a limited basis.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

All C2021 CINA Summer Research Teams receive follow-on funding. Each summer, CINA selects faculty and student teams from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to participate in the CINA summer research program. The program provides an opportunity for students to conduct research on topics related to homeland security. Congratulations to our MSI research partners as this year, all three CINA summer research teams conducted their studies at George Mason University's campus in Fairfax, VA. Once the summer program ends, follow-on funding may be awarded to projects that show superior results.

The CINA Center supports a range of initiatives to help shape the future workforce in homeland security.

The CINA Center offers a series of workshops, seminars, and webinars that focus on various aspects of homeland security and crime analysis. These events are open to the public and provide opportunities for individuals to learn about the latest developments in the field. The center also hosts a Distinguished Speaker Series, which features leading experts in the field of homeland security and crime analysis.

Visit our website's digital archive to view research and upcoming events.

Distinguished Speaker Series

Marie Tillyer: "Open Source Data and Predictive Modeling for High-Density Crime Areas"

On February 25, 2022, the University of Texas at San Antonio discuss open source data and predictive modeling to uncover the indicators of high-density crime areas. Marie Tillyer: “Open Source Data and Predictive Modeling for High-Density Crime Areas”.

For more information, visit our website or contact us.