Distinguished Speaker Series: The 2021 CINA Annual RFP is now open. This year, CINA is seeking proposals that will address key challenges represented by the four research themes of the CINA Center: Criminal Network Analysis, Dynamic Patterns of Criminal Investigation, Forensics, and Criminal Investigative Processes. White paper submissions will be accepted through January 29, 2021. The 2021 CINA Annual RFP is now open.

Maryland 2021 Real Estate Market Briefings: Join us at the University of Maryland Center for Regional and Urban Economic Studies as we present our 2021 Real Estate Market Briefings. These briefings will focus on the real estate market in Maryland, with a focus on the Baltimore-Washington region, and will cover topics such as market trends, property values, and employment growth. The briefings will be held on January 12 and 13, 2021.

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COVID-19 Impact on the Economy, Security and Counterterrorism Department Crime: On March 17, 2021, Professor Diana Dolliver will present a lecture on the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, security, and counterterrorism department crime. The lecture will cover topics such as the economic impact of the pandemic, the role of security and counterterrorism in mitigating the spread of the virus, and the challenges faced by the criminal justice system in responding to the pandemic.

The CINA Center network has four projects entering the transition phase, multiple new projects coming out of our research, and new opportunities for outreach and collaboration. I look forward to our continued mutual success going forward. I am grateful to all of you who supported and executed the many tasks necessary to get to this point. It is an honor to lead a team of people who are all eager and willing to share their experience, knowledge, ideas, and problems.

I began my first term as CINA Director one year ago, and the other day was asked what I had learned in that first year. It turns out that fighting Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) is hard. This won't be a surprise to most of you reading this, but spending time closer to the problem showed me how dynamic, agile, innovative, and ruthless TCOs are, not to mention how well-funded. The other thing that I learned in that first year is that clarity of mission comes from strategy and actions, and this gets and keeps everyone rowing in the same direction, focused on our collectively prioritized results.

One challenge related to the TCO problem is the lack of awareness and capacity to address the threat. As a result, the public lacks an understanding of the true extent of the problem. This is a result of the lack of understanding of the threat posed by TCOs and the lack of knowledge and resources to address the problem effectively.

We are making great progress in addressing these challenges and improving awareness and capacity. Our efforts are yielding results, and we are seeing a growing interest in the issue. However, there is still much work to be done, and we must continue to work together to address the threat posed by TCOs.

I am looking forward to the next year of our work and the continued success of the CINA Center.