THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Professor Diana Dolliver

I began serving as CINA Director one year ago, and the other day was asked what I had accomplished in that time. I thought, ‘Well, I’ve led a team of dedicated professionals to deliver high-quality training and education to more than 10,000 participants, and I have brought the CINA Center into the 21st century with a new and enhanced website and a robust digital offering. But what is the impact of my work?’

To answer that question, I turn to my staff. I asked each person to reflect on what they accomplished in the last year and what impact they believe their work had on the nation. Here are a few of their responses:

Deanna Austin, Workforce Development Manager, said, ‘During the pandemic, we pivoted our program delivery to a virtual format and saw a significant increase in the number of participants joining our courses. In addition, our workforce development efforts included training on new technologies and job skills that are in high demand, such as cybersecurity and data analytics.’

George Hamra, Adjunct Professor and retired FBI officer, shared, ‘I taught a course on terrorism and counterterrorism, and I was able to share my experiences with law enforcement and government officials. It was rewarding to see the impact of my work on their understanding of the challenges they face.’

I also asked my team to reflect on what they learned throughout the year. Here are a few of their responses:

Stephen Burmeister, who taught a course on drug trafficking, said, ‘I learned that fighting organized crime is hard. This won’t be a surprise to most of you reading this, but spending time closer to the battlefronts and working with local agencies, I found that they don’t follow the rules. It’s a different world out there.’

I also learned that fighting transnational organized crime in the Americas.

Her presentation will focus on the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, security and Defense Studies, The National Defense University. Professor of Practice, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric event taking place on February 17, 2021, featuring Celina Realuyo, Save the date for our upcoming Distinguished Speaker Series Security and Transnational Organized COVID-19 Impact on the Economy, Security and Public Safety. According to Verrico, “DHS S&T does amazing work in research and development of technology solutions to the nation’s greatest challenges. I work with a great team of colleagues who are driven to help the nation achieve its mission.”

They noted, “John’s career has been focused on helping government agencies tell their stories and expand our workforce development efforts. He knows the importance of communication at all levels of government, and he has been instrumental in helping us achieve our goals.”

I also learned that from clarity of mission comes a strategy and actions, and this gets and keeps everyone rowing in the same direction, focused on our collectively prioritized results. I also learned that government and law enforcement organizations, our fellow COEs, the research community, and industry, I found them all to be mission-oriented, dedicated, and focused, and I found them all eager and willing to share their experience, knowledge, ideas, and problems.

I look forward to our continued mutual success going forward. #dhsscitech has won multiple awards for their work in the past, including four awards this year from AST. Said. #dhsscitech has won multiple awards for their work in the past, including four awards this year from AST.

I am proud of the fact that CINA is able to support such a meaningful mission, and I am excited to see what the future holds for our organization.

— Diana Dolliver

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