Homeland Security Symposium Series

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Project Team Profile

PI Name, University: Victor M. Manjarrez, Jr., The University of Texas at El Paso

- Project Start Date: January 2016
- Anticipated End Date: June 2020
- Project personnel:
  - Anjelica Manjarrez, Student
  - Victor Reyes, Student

Problem Statement

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Strategic Plan and the 2014 Quadrennial Homeland Seuciry Review have both identified maturing and strengthening the homeland security enterprise as a key component to DHS workforce development.

Beneficiary / End User Profile: Jobs

Who are the beneficiaries / end-users of this research (the "jobs")?

- ICE HSI Special Agents and Intelligence Analysts

- CBP OFO Intelligence & Targeting Analysts and First Level Supervisors

- U.S. Border Patrol 1st and 2nd Level Supervisors

- DHS Intelligence and Analysts

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Beneficiary / End User Profile: Desired Gains

What are the main outcomes and benefits that the end user desires (the "gains")?

- Disseminate to practitioners research findings, data, and results from relevant research

- Provide education and workforce development to meet the needs of DHS component agencies, local first responders, and other homeland security enterprise stakeholders

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Beneficiary / End User Profile: Pain Points

What are the main issues the capability or knowledge gap is causing (the end user "pains")?

- HSE workforce development is challenged by budgetary constraints
- Gap between relevant research and HSE practitioners
- HSE practitioners not aware of the realm of research possibility

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Products & Services

- What products & services are the outcomes of this educational/workforce project?
  - Delivered ten (10) symposia
    - Live webcast
    - Record and publicly posted symposia events
  - Increased learning (Pre/Post Symposia Tests)
  - Exit Surveys
  - Research in Briefs for each symposium
  - After Action Reports for each symposium

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Gains Created

What are the gains achieved and how are they measured?

- Delivered ten (10) symposia
  - Theme 1: Investigating Interviewing & Forensic Science
  - Theme 2: Migration: Global Perspectives
  - Theme 3: Radicalization of Gangs
  - Theme 4: Transnational Criminal Organizations and Networks
- Increased relevancy and interest in the topics
  - Twitter: Over 52,000 "impressions" and 763 "engagements"
  - CHLB website: Over 16,000 website "hits" on the Homeland Security Symposium Series webpage
  - Exit Surveys reveal that over 83% of the participants have a greater interest in the topic

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Pains Alleviated

- What are the pains alleviated and how are they measured?

    - Increased learning by 24% in the topic areas
        - Pre and Post tests
    - Satisfaction with symposia content and relevancy (90% & 77% respectively)
        - Exit Surveys
    - 88% of symposia participants claim their knowledge of the topic increased
        - Exit Surveys

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Key accomplishments

- Delivered ten (10) symposia
- Provided relevant workforce development topics
- Regionally narrowed the gap between relevant research and practitioners
- Exceeded established performance metrics for the series (Satisfaction and learning)
- Increased exposure for DHS S & T OUP and the BTI

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Transition Pathways

How will the work reach the end-user? What is the proposed transition pathway?

- YouTube channel established for archived recordings
  - 3,520 video views
- All symposia materials (video, agenda, Research in Briefs, and After Action Reports posted on the webpage)
  - Over 16,000 visits to the Homeland Security Symposium Series webpage
- In-person attendees: Over 750 individuals representing 50 federal, state, and local agencies
- Video downloads from over 140 institutions of higher education and 77 federal, state, and local government entities

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Transition Engagement

What mechanisms has project staff used for engaging with the potential customer(s)?

- The PI engages homeland security enterprise stakeholders in a weekly basis at the both the local and national level
- A local Homeland Security Symposium Series Advisory Board was established:
    - ICE HSI and ERO
    - CBP (US Border Patrol & Office of Field Operations)
    - Transportation Security Administration
    - US Secret Service
    - US Army Research Lab
    - El Paso Sheriff's Office
    - El Paso Police Department

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Transition Challenges (if applicable)

What does the project team perceive to be the challenges they will face in the near and long term going forward?

- Near term challenges:
    1. As noted in each symposium After Action Report – Exit Surveys, Pre/Post-Tests, and RSVPs

- Long term challenges:
    1. Increased engagement from DHS S & T OUP communications to highlight tweets, webcasts, and YouTube channel
    2. Increasing the realm of possibility

Conclusions

The goals of this project have been met:

1. Disseminating research findings, data, and results from relevant research through face-to-face and online modalities

2. Provide training and education to meet the needs of DHS component agencies, local law enforcement, and other homeland security stakeholders.

Disclaimer

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