



National Center for Border Security and Immigration

A DHS Center of Excellence

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION, CO-LED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA IN TUCSON AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO, IS DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGIES, TOOLS AND ADVANCED METHODS TO BALANCE IMMIGRATION AND TRADE WITH EFFECTIVE BORDER SECURITY, AS WELL AS ASSESS THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES, IMPROVE SURVEILLANCE AND SCREENING, ANALYZE IMMIGRATION TRENDS, AND ENHANCE POLICY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.



Research Lead BORDERS - University of Arizona

Recent Successes

DHS Scholars and Fellows Program at BORDERS: Recipient, Katherine White

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recognizes that the youth of the United States are the primary source of future innovative scientific advancements. In an effort to support their development, the DHS Scholars and Fellows Program offers funding opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students majoring in an HS-STEM related field. Having completed her first year as a DHS fellow, Katherine White opted to intern at the University of Arizona's National Center for Border Security and Immigration (BORDERS) during the summer of 2009.

White's internship at BORDERS has exposed her to a myriad of alternative methods for potentially identifying individuals who might harbor malicious intent. Interning at BORDERS allowed White to participate in research that considers practicalities and challenges facing the nation's border security community.

BORDERS signs MOU with Laurea University of Finland

In May 2009, BORDERS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

with Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Safety and Security Management in Finland. This agreement establishes a joint, cooperative effort between BORDERS and Laurea to conduct transatlantic border security and immigration research, development and training. By leveraging the capacity and expertise of BORDERS as the research center for U.S. border and immigration technologies, and utilizing Laurea as the network hub and test bed for European border technologies, this partnership can better serve and mutually benefit the security needs of U.S. and European stakeholders.

Website Launch

BORDERS has launched a new website to keep stakeholders informed of their activities. Please use the link below to learn more:
<http://www.borders.arizona.edu>

New Projects - USCIS Sponsors Research

BORDERS will be awarded funding from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to study the E-Verify system of employment eligibility verification and the New Immigrant Survey (NIS).

E-Verify

BORDERS will conduct research in the following areas:

- Identify and assess existing, on-going impacts of the E-Verify program on immigrant employees and their communities;
- Develop sophisticated models to identify factors that affect compliance or non-compliance with E-verify program components; and,
- Support longitudinal analyses of the consequences of E-Verify for employers in mandatory and non-mandatory states.

New Immigrant Survey (NIS)

BORDERS will:

- Examine the transition from temporary to permanent citizenship, including the process of finding a home and becoming financially successful;
- Identify and assess the impact of immigration on employment, labor force participation, occupational attainment, income determination, and social assimilation;
- Assess the differences that occur within immigrant lifestyles pre- and post-immigration, and how social networks of families serve as support;
- Compare the New Immigrant Survey instrument with comparable instruments.



Recent Successes

Border Security Conference: Fostering a 21st Century Relationship of Cooperation and Shared Responsibility

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), in cooperation with Congressman Silvestre Reye’s office, hosted the sixth annual Border Security Conference on August 10th and 11th. This conference brought together leaders from the public and private sectors in both the United States and Mexico to explore how best to safeguard our common borders, while simultaneously fostering the continued human and economic development of our two nations.

Some of the topical areas discussed were: The Merida Initiative: A Shared Responsibility to Confront Illicit Narcotics Trafficking; Integrating Technology and Connecting Communities; Forming a Comprehensive Homeland Security Operation; and The Importance of Strengthening Civic Society, Commerce, and Academia.

Participants included Janet Napolitano, DHS Secretary, John Brennan, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security

Education Lead NCBSI - University of Texas at El Paso

and Counterterrorism, Alan Bersin, Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Special Representative for Border Affairs, John Morton, Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Kenneth Melson, Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, David Aguilar, Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol, and Roger Garner, USAID Mission Director for Mexico.

Projects in the Spotlight

DHS Scholar Academy

As part of the education elements in its work plan, UTEP has developed a survey to conduct an assessment of their customers. The survey will identify and assess existing programs to determine not only their relevance, but more importantly, to avoid duplication. Those elements that are relevant will be integrated into the NCBSI education program. Another objective of the survey is to identify gaps in order to make them areas of focus.

The intent of this effort is to create a “DHS Scholar Academy” at UTEP. The goal of the academy is to provide a curriculum that puts the student in the classroom, as well as provides continuous and significant interaction with the Homeland Security customer base. The curriculum will be multi-disciplinary in its approach, but incorporating HS-STEM disciplines and the social sciences.

Multi-Sector Comparative Operational Analysis

Working in cooperation with both the Office of Field Operations (OFO) and Border Patrol (BP), NCBSI is conducting a comparative operational analysis focused on similarities and differences at point-of-entry areas in three sectors: Blaine, El Paso, and Detroit. This analysis includes the stakeholder organizations themselves, as well as their processes, environments, decision-making, data and systems.

Understanding these similarities and differences will help support DHS and others as they make border-related policy decisions, especially those related to developing a unified vision and addressing the challenges of effectively sharing information across organizational lines. The goal is to help each site develop a shared vision of system interdependencies and best practices. This includes an understanding of the appropriate balance between the need for a common vision and the need for variation among sites necessary to accommodate local situations and conditions.

Updates

With the recent departure of BG Jose Riojas, USA (ret) as Executive Director, Dr. Roberto Osegueda has been named interim director until a suitable replacement is found. Jose Riojas was recently confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Operations, Security and Preparedness at the Department of Veterans Affairs.



Questions/Comments

If you have any questions or comments about the DHS Center for Border Security and Immigration, please send an email to any of the following:

- University of Arizona, Executive Director – Elyse Golob, EGolob@email.arizona.edu
- University of Texas, El Paso, Managing Director – Luis Barker, LBarker@utep.edu

If you would like to be added/removed from this distribution list or have any additional questions about the Centers, please contact the DHS Program Manager, Theophilos Gemelas at Theophilos.Gemelas@dhs.gov or the Program Coordinator, Tara Duggan at Tara.Duggan@associates.dhs.gov.

