

BTI Institute

Borders • Trade • Immigration

A Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence

Message from the Director

As we closed out 2017 and began a new year in 2018, this quarter provided ample opportunities for me to reflect on and recognize the excellent research and hard work done in the many important areas our mission drives us towards. The two major milestones I want to highlight are the 2017 Research and Education Showcase and the Biennial Review.



Our 2017 Showcase was hosted by our partners at American University this past December. While it is highlighted below, I want to express my appreciation to American University for being generous hosts and our Department of Homeland Security champions for attending and contributing to the productive discussion. We discussed how we can transition our research with a focus on operational concerns. For more on the showcase and for a highlight on each research project, read the article below.

We held our Biennial Review in February where I had the opportunity to speak to the Board of Directors advising the DHS office of University Programs. I laid out the work that our Institute and research partners have been doing and expressed where our vision could take us. While results from the review are not available at the time of this publication, I feel that our Institute, our mission, our research, and our efforts were well received.

Thank you again for being a vital part of our Institute. Continue to read through the rest of the newsletter to see our team's highlights this past quarter.

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Our Mission

The Borders, Trade, and Immigration (BTI) Institute, led by the University of Houston, conducts and transitions research, develops innovative solutions, and provides education that enhances the Nation's ability to secure the borders, facilitate legitimate trade and travel, and ensure the integrity of the immigration system.



2017 PI Meeting and Research and Education Showcase

Annual research highlights.

[Read more...](#)

[Link to research and presentations.](#)

Advisory Board helps shape way ahead

Thought-leaders advise on planning, research, technology and market development.

[Read more...](#)

[Link to biographies of board members](#)



STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS

The Director and Executive Director of Strategic Partnerships had a number of engagements over the past quarter. Below are a few of the highlights. [Click for more details...](#)



Acting Commissioner Kevin McAleenan, CBP



Consumer Electronics Show 18



Border Security Expo 18



Texas Association of Regional Councils

FLOWS OF GOODS



Robert Shaw

Leveraging U.S. Export Control Reform: New Challenges and Opportunities for U.S. Government Efforts to Counter WMD Proliferation through Enforcement of Export Controls

Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey
Program Director, Export Control & Nonproliferation Program & Adjunct Professor

[Read more for synopsis and final report...](#)

FLOWS OF PEOPLE

Juan Villa

Developing a Concept of Operations for an Innovative System for Measuring Wait Times at Land Ports of Entry

Texas Transportation Institute, Texas A&M University System
Manager, Mexico City Office
Program Manager, Economics, Trade and Logistics

[Read more for synopsis and final report...](#)



EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Homeland Security Symposium #10

Dr. Brandon Behlendorf
Disrupting and Dismantling Transnational Criminal Networks

[Read synopsis here...](#)

[View video and more here...](#)

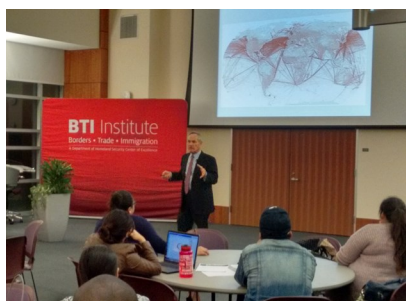


Homeland Security Symposium #11

Patrick Schaefer, J.D.
Banking, Finance, & National Security

[View video and more here...](#)

OUTREACH



Distinguished Speakers Series

Alan Bersin, former commissioner, U.S. CBP
Illicit Flows

[Read news article here...](#)

[Find presentation here...](#)

Grant Awarded

Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack grant from DHS

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission, in partnership with the Borders, Trade, and Immigration Institute, will host a series of two-day workshops over the course of the Spring and Summer of 2018, focusing on the fundamental areas of Public Information, Operational Communications, Intelligence, Tactical Response, Medical Response, and Victim and Family Services.

[Read the press release...](#)

[Read about the workshop series...](#)



UAS Working Group

Joel Aud, BTI Fellow, representing

Quarterly meeting of the BTI Institute UAS Working Group.

[Read the summary here...](#)

EXPANDING OUR NETWORK

New Partnerships

We have entered into formal partnerships with [MITRE](#).

New BTI Fellows

We have added two new BTI Fellows to our expanding group of highly experienced and qualified subject matter experts. [For more on BTI Fellows...](#)



[Steve Bucci](#)



[David Danelo](#)

BTI INSTITUTE IN THE NEWS

Op Ed | Harvey and Supply Chain Management - BTI Institute Leadership

[The Houston Chronicle](#)

Video | Border Security - Jaeson Jones, BTI Fellow

[Hagee Hotline](#)

Video | Border Patrol agents find tunnel - Victor Manjarrez, Jr., BTI Institute Researcher

[FOX News](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Distinguished Speakers Series

#2 - The Flows of Trade - Panel - March 21, 2018 - University of Houston

Panel: **Mr. Gene Tyndall**, executive vice-president of Tompkins International Inc., and **Mr. Chris Gopal**, global supply chain and operations consultant; Moderator: **Dr. Eleftherios Iakovou**, associate director of Transnational Trade & Supply Chain Management at BTI Institute

#3 - Flows across Borders - The State of the Border - April 18, 2018 - University of Houston

Speaker: Kevin McAleenan, Acting Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Regional Response to a Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack Workshop Series

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission, in partnership with the Borders, Trade, and Immigration Institute, will host a series of two-day workshops over the course of the Spring and Summer of 2018, focusing on the fundamental areas of Public Information, Operational Communications, Intelligence, Tactical Response, Medical Response, and Victim and Family Services. All workshops are at Lamar University in Beaumont, TX.

Public Information Workshop - March 27, 28

Tactical Response - May 8, 9

Medical Response - June 26, 27

Intelligence - July 17, 18

Victims' Support and Family Services - August 7, 8

DHS Centers of Excellence Summit to focus on “University Research & Development to Protect the Homeland”

BTI Institute is participating in the 2018 COE Summit, May 30-31, 2018, at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA.

This is an opportunity to gather some of the nation's best academic, public, and private sector leaders to discuss strategies for advancing the mission of the Department of Homeland Security.

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