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Website is National Resource for Homeland Security Educators

Center for Homeland Defense and Security

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

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 chds.us/c/item/649

For the first time in the country's history, colleges, universities and agencies can share homeland security curriculum and multi-media content with a new website that is designed specifically to meet the needs of the homeland security academic community.

The Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS), the nation's homeland security educator, is launching the unique, first-ever site that is dedicated solely curriculum development and scholarly support for the homeland security discipline. The Center is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security National Preparedness Directorate, FEMA, and located at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

The site is designed to:

- Enhance communication between UAPI partners
- Establish directories of partner educators, institutions and programs
- Provide high quality, cutting edge curriculum and resources for educators
- Encourage dynamic discussion forums
- Provide a neutral forum for collaboration between partners
- Announce events and items of interest for the homeland security education community
- Host employment and opportunity listings

CHDS' University and Agency Partnership Initiative (UAPI) may be visited at www.uapi.us.

UAPI was established in 2005 to share the Center's curriculum free of charge to universities, colleges and agencies that are building programs in the homeland security field. Some 222 universities and schools have joined the program since its inception in 2005.

The ultimate goal was that exporting CHDS' academic content beyond its own classrooms would result in greater number of homeland security professionals working in the field.

"The strategy has always been to build the discipline from the bottom up by having universities and agencies participate in the Center's success," CHDS Executive Director Ted Lewis said.

As one of the first educational endeavors in the homeland security field, the Center's curriculum is the "fountainhead" for the discipline, Lewis added.

As the number of partners has increased, the need arose to establish a more user-friendly site designed for the professors and instructors to exchange information minus the student-oriented content featured in the original CHDS website.



"The academics involved in partnership and the people involved at CHDS really have different needs," UAPI Director Stan Supinski said. "They (academics) are in the process of developing courses and using our material. We wanted to simplify the process for them getting the materials."

The new site does just that, in part, by simplifying how users can obtain course material by organizing it into video, lectures, slide presentations, syllabi and other offerings.

Moreover, the site will feature forums, similar to those found on the CHDS Moodle site, designed to encourage dynamic discussions, enable scholars to collaborate, announce events and highlight employment opportunities.

"Once they log into the UAPI site they will have a one-click process to get to the resources we have available," Supinski said.

The site will also offer links to member institutions that range from state universities to liberal arts and community colleges to graduate schools.

The opportunity for scholars to collaborate on curriculum and other projects could help solidify homeland security as an academic endeavor distinguishable and separate from other disciplines.

"If homeland security is to become a useful academic and professional discipline, I think it has to demonstrate how looking at enduring problems through a homeland security framework adds significant value not provided by other disciplines," said Chris Bellavita, Director of Academic Programs at CHDS. "If it is unable to demonstrate value, homeland security may devolve into a legacy concept, like the now largely forgotten idea of civil defense."

The new site is a testament to the maturation and evolution of homeland security as an academic discipline that has been pioneered by CHDS. The Center has a stand-alone website for its Homeland Security Digital Library (HSDL) and as the profile of the varied cadre of CHDS programs grows, there may well be future need for creating independent websites for programs.

"I think it is a trend that will continue where we segment and break our content into smaller pieces," Lewis said.

Scholars and institutions interested in learning more about the Center for Homeland Defense and Security's University and Agency Partnership Initiative may contact Stan Supinski, Director of Partnership programs at 719-481-0266 or sbsupins@nps.edu.

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