



BTI Institute

Borders • Trade • Immigration

A Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence

THE BTI INSTITUTE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS PROGRAM

Executive Summary

This document outlines initial objectives for planning, coordination and conduct of the Borders, Trade, and Immigration Institute's Distinguished Speakers Program, the reasons for its creation, and its desired outcomes.

A. Goal

Implementation of an informational Speakers Program. This program will invite experts on subjects of interest related to border security, trade, immigration and the safety and resilience of communities in the border regions, to share their expertise with the Houston community.

B. Start Date

BTI will host its inaugural presentation in September 2017. Two additional presentations will take place in October and November. During the spring of 2018 presentations are planned monthly from February through April.

C. Objectives

- Address real world challenges
- Present pre-eminent speakers on current topics concerning the transnational flows of people, goods, data and capital
- Educate citizens on subject matter related to securing our nation's borders, facilitating legitimate trade and travel, and ensuring the integrity of our immigration policies.
- Host presentations during evening hours at select venues on the University of Houston's main campus

D. Background and Identified Need

Houston is a growing international community with a diverse population of individuals from a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds. Residents of our community foster a variety of economic and political beliefs. The University of Houston and the BTI Institute believe that this diversity enriches the university and Houston communities, and strive to thoughtfully respond to the changing realities of our community and our world. The BTI Institute will offer a balance in opinions and perspectives when inviting subject matter experts to discuss current topics with a clear nexus to the areas of border security, trade or immigration.

E. Desired Outcomes

- Offer transdisciplinary education through presentations by multi-disciplinary national and international experts
- Educate citizens on economic, social and cultural challenges affecting the city of Houston, the state of Texas, the United States of America and the world
- Offer speakers the opportunity to interact with students and researchers at the University of Houston

F. Program Tenets

- Engage the BTI Institute's External Advisory Board in the process of soliciting speakers
- Select topics of keen interest based upon current events and evolving issues
- Ensure attention is provided to the Northern border (and territories)
- Present a balance in opinions and perspectives
- Host eight scheduled speakers per academic year

F. Acknowledgements

This initiative is resourced using funding provided by the University of Houston to the Borders, Trade, and Immigration (BTI) Institute: A DHS Center of Excellence. The views contained in this document are those of BTI and should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of University of Houston.

G. Point of Contact (Borders, Trade, and Immigration Institute)

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