

**First Annual Proceedings of the**

**International Society for Preparedness, Resilience and Security**  
**(INSPRS)**

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Draft – August 2013

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Homeland security (HS) education is still in its infancy. Though estimates vary, the oldest HS programs tend to be no more than seven or eight years old, and the number of academic programs in the US has grown from roughly 17 in 2006 to over 250 programs today. In addition to a lack of theoretical development, and a wide variation in definition, there remains no common set of student learning outcomes, no common curriculum and no professional organization in existence to represent HS education, students, faculty development or continuing education or whose focus it is to advance the profession.

On May 9 and 10, 2013, 17 scholars came together at Penn State Harrisburg to discuss how to create and sustain a professional organization that is designed to support homeland security preparedness and resilience education, theory development, and policy analysis. Further, this group intended to develop an inclusive and active organization that would help focus and define the emergent discipline of homeland security, as well as position itself and offer to engage in the national security and homeland security strategic planning process.

Results of the meeting were positive and many. The group overwhelmingly decided that such a professional organization was necessary and needed to be created sooner rather than later. The group also decided upon a name, a mission and vision and value proposition. It also developed several subcommittees with specific tasks. Each subcommittee has developed a series of tasks that they've agreed to complete during the summer of 2013. The group also decided to develop governing documents (i.e., a constitution and set of bylaws) and to incorporate in the state of Pennsylvania.

The group also sent representatives to the US Department of Homeland Security in Washington DC on Friday, May 10, to meet with the Executive Director for Academic Engagement, Ms. Lauren Kielsmeier. That meeting was productive and served to let Ms. Kielsmeier know that there is a large and robust community of HS academics who are willing to work with her and DHS in support of HS education or policy analysis.

These proceedings will also act as the minutes of the first official meeting of the International Society for Preparedness, Resilience and Security, [INSPRS.org](http://INSPRS.org).

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Is Homeland Security a profession or an occupation? Whereas occupation might be defined as the principle activity one engages in to earn money; a profession is an occupation requiring specialized knowledge or skill. In his text, Paul Starr also states that “Quite aside from specialized knowledge, professionals possess an advantage in judgment” (Starr, pg. 5). One can establish the definition of a lawyer, a physician, or an engineer and find commonalities shared by each, i.e. specialized knowledge applied in the practice of the profession. For one to call oneself a “professional”, one must work in a recognized profession. But, how does one distinguish between an occupation and a profession?

All professions seem to have a life cycle. That is, new discovery, knowledge or newly codified sets of operating procedures based on new technology (e.g., radiographic and diagnostic imaging technology such as CT and PET scanners and the growth of radiologic technicians) can each act as an impetus for the formation of a new profession. Professions then, begin, develop, grow and mature. If an emergent profession or discipline grows and matures, it must be recognized and accepted as such by at least three distinct communities; 1) those in the field who do the job; 2) those in the field that hire those who do the job; and 3) the academic community who educates future practitioners, helps create and vet student learning outcomes that define the discipline and whose research contributes to policy, theory and the body of knowledge that organizes and subsumes the discipline. Over time, professions either persist or fade away.

There are several things one might observe that are consistent with mature, established professions (or disciplines). Dean suggests the following: 1) a service orientation and a code of professional ethics; 2) a specialized body of knowledge; 3) a distinct educational tract which derives from the specialized body of knowledge and the associated educational credentials; 4) and a capacity to support continuous learning and professional development and a social or collegial dimension (Dean, 1995). Consequently, established and mature disciplines such as medicine, law, nursing, engineering, etc. each tend to have at least one professional association that facilitates continue professional education among faculty and practitioners, supports ongoing student engagement (i.e., student chapters, student conferences, student research and honor societies), supports research and contributions to policy and theory that affect the discipline, enables peer review and exchanges of ideas, practices and theory, etc.

Unlike mature professions, emergent disciplines may or may not exhibit these characteristics to varying degrees. As is true for all emergent disciplines, HS is maturing in a logical and incremental fashion. Over the last eight years, several academic programs in HS have been created, the oldest of which seemed to arise around the end of 2005 and early in 2006. Over time, peer reviewed publications have also taken root. Publications such as Homeland Security Affairs Journal, the Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the Journal of Homeland Security Education each solicit and publish high quality, peer reviewed literature that contributes theory, policy analysis and the scholarship of teaching and learning. In addition, the Center for Homeland Defense and Security in the Naval Post Graduate School has supported at least one undergraduate and one graduate model curriculum development

workshop, several continuing education workshops for practitioners and academics, and at least five national education summits where peer review proposals are presented that exhibit state-of-the art theory and best practices. Last, there's even been a recently created national honor society for homeland security majors called the Order of the Sword and Shield (OSS). The OSS has recently adopted a Greek designation: Omicron Sigma Sigma ( $\text{O}\Sigma\Sigma$ ); see <http://securityhonorsociety.org/>

However, although several parts of mature disciplines seem to exist in the emergent discipline of HS, they've tended to be disparate effort. As such, at the moment, there is no robust, overarching professional organization whose mission it is to support and represent HS faculty development, student development, to identify and support the translation of research to best practices.

In May of 2013, 17 HS scholars and practitioners from around the nation came together at Penn State-Harrisburg (PSH) to conceptualize and form such a robust and representative organization. The meeting was co-organized, supported and hosted by Tom Arminio of Penn State-Harrisburg, and Jim Ramsay from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The original 17 individuals were invited to participate on their own time and at their own expense. The invitation letter and participation list is presented in Appendix 1.

**Preparation.** Planning for a spring meeting by those interested in forming a robust and inclusive professional society for HS educators, scholars and students began in the fall of 2012. Through a series of conference calls during the fall, winter and early spring, Tom Arminio, Jim Ramsay and Steve Recca (from the Center for Homeland Defense and Security University & Agency Partnership Initiative program) met regularly to strategize and formulate a general direction and context for a larger group meeting. Over time, it was decided that the initial formation of a state-of-the-art professional society will require input, vision, and energy from a small number of active participants. Further, those participants should be invited based on several characteristics in order to result in a broad-based and highly representative group of professionals. Characteristics included those who are active scholars from a wide variety of backgrounds and disciplines considered part of the HS enterprise, those with experience designing and developing academic programs in homeland security studies (or something similar in nature), those with experience in accreditation, those with experience in creating and building organization and in organization development and those with a mature understanding of and experience in the homeland security enterprise. In January 2013, a mutually agreed participant list was developed. The next step was to develop a consensus of when to meet. The best meeting time for the majority turned out to be directly following the spring semester but before the start of the summer session. May 9-10 was floated and agreed to by all. Ultimately, 14/17 invitees were able to attend in person and 2/3 of those unable to attend in person called in on a conferencing line throughout both days.

In order to enhance the efficiency of the meeting, several pre-reads were distributed. These are listed on the bottom of the agenda in Appendix 2. Furthermore, to assist in the discussion about the value proposition, name and mission, preliminary examples of each were sent out in succession, each followed by an online ballot. Results of the ballot for name, value proposition and mission are included in Appendix 3.

**The Meeting.** The meeting occurred over a one and half day time frame on the Penn State Harrisburg campus. The first half day was consumed entirely by verification of the choice of organization name, mission and vision and value proposition. Results from the pre-meeting balloting were distributed and discussed. Discussion ranged across whether and to what degree the term “homeland security” should be in the name, what homeland security means, and the recent scholarship that indicated the wide variation and general lack of agreement in what homeland security is, does, or should be responsible for.

The afternoon sessions were structured as small groups organized around a common set of tasks envisioned that the organization would need to accomplish early on. These included education standards, activities, governance, membership and outreach.

## Outcomes from the May Meeting: Organizational Structure and Initial Governance

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The meeting was very productive and produced several outcomes required to start a new professional organization. The subcommittee workgroups produced an initial organizational structure that included a board, three standing committees which each identified a task list to accomplish over the summer months.

**The Board.** As agreement was being reached about a name, and after agreement had been reached on the value proposition, mission and vision, the question of governance soon arose. How best to organize and conduct the necessary daily/monthly operations of INSPRS for the first 24 – 30 months was thoroughly discussed. Dave McIntyre moved and Chris Martin seconded that the 17 attendees to the May 2013 meeting would constitute the first INSPRS board of directors. In addition, the motion included that Tom Arminio and Jim Ramsay should co-chair the board until the governing documents are created, approved and an official board determined. The motion carried unanimously and both Arminio and Ramsay agreed to serve in this capacity.

**An Official Journal.** A hallmark characteristic of a mature discipline and the professional organization representing it is the presence of supported research and a mechanism for peers to review and publish completed scholarship. This is necessary to establish a legitimate and credible body of knowledge and to keep the professional organization at the vanguard of theory and policy analysis and best practice development. At least a year before the INSPRS meeting, another group of HS scholars came together to form the peer-reviewed Journal of Homeland Security Education (JHSE). The editor-in-chief of JSHE is Dr. Michelle Majewski, who is also a participant in INSPRS. The mission of JHSE is to support and publish the best in the scholarship of teaching and learning in the homeland security, defense, preparedness and resilience disciplines. Toward this end and due to the overlap in missions, JSHE has agreed to become the official journal of INSPRS. A formalization of this will require JHSE to meet with and obtain agreement from its advisory board. This is expected to take place before the end of September and before the INSPRS web site is completed.

**Student Sections and Honor Society.** Similar to JHSE, the Order of the Sword and Shield (OSS) was recently formed by Jeff Grossman, JD as a national honor society for students of homeland security, defense, preparedness or resilience. Honor societies normally include structures that allow the formation of student sections which university programs can create and sustain. Student sections are well known methods to allow students to join with establish professionals in their discipline, present student research, engage in partnership building and networking and form the foundation of one's career. As such, all robust and effective representative professional associations tend to support student honor societies and the formation of local student sections. The OSS has agreed in principle to affiliate with INSPRS and thereby provide INSPRS with a structured and logical mechanism to engage student membership and engagement. This affiliation is hoped to be approved by the OSS advisory board the fall of 2013.

**Working Groups.** As one can see from the agenda for the May 2013 meeting, not only were subcommittees envisioned ahead of time, and used during the meeting, they were maintained and

charged to accomplish specific tasks over the summer of 2013 up to the Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) HS education summit scheduled for September 26-28 in Boston, MA. Three subgroups formed during the May meeting (membership and outreach, education standards and activities, governance). Each participant allocated him or herself to at least one sub group, and each sub group agreed to meet over the summer to accomplish what it defined as major objectives before the CHDS conference in Boston. For example, among possibly other things:

The membership subgroup agreed to:

- Identify and define membership categories and dues.
- Investigate a structure and vendor and costs associated with an initial web site.<sup>1</sup>
- Develop a logo

The governance subgroup agreed to:

- Develop a working constitution and set of bylaws
- Begin development of a business plan
- File INSPRS as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization in the state of Pennsylvania before the CHDS conference in Boston Sep 26-28, 2013.

The activities subgroup agreed to:

- Identify aspects and activities (such as webinars, model curricula conferences, etc.) of INSPRS that new members can join
- Establish an education standards committee whose function will be to set and oversee the standards of education used by academic degree programs and for accreditation

**Strategic Planning.** The group agreed that a template strategic plan should be created for the first 5 years. Jim Ramsay and Jeff Maxfield committed to producing a five year strategic plan before the end of August. This plan is completed and available. It is recommended that the governance subcommittee become a standing committee and that a strategic planning task force (or subcommittee) be formed under the governance committee.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that before the May meeting adjourned, the group acquired the domain names of .COM, .ORG, .NET for INSPRS.

At this point in the development of INSPRS, the next steps consist of the following:

1. Each subgroup would continue to meet regularly over the summer.
2. Have at least one group conference call near the end of the summer to ascertain progress and assist each subgroup. In addition, to meet as INSPRS during the CHDS conference in Boston.
3. Approve of all governing documents and a business plan template, and file in Pennsylvania before the end of September, 2013.
4. Elect a board and president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and establish an executive committee before December, 2013.
5. Establish a working webpage including the ability to post governing documents, an events calendar, list of officers, strategic plan, etc., a logo and a way for new members to pay and join before the CHDS conference in Boston; and embellish over the fall.
6. Prepare a media campaign to be executed during the fall and to develop advertising materials to be available at the CHDS conference in Boston.

Respectfully submitted to INSPRS by:

Jim Ramsay

Tom Arminio

***Appendix 1 - The Invitation Letter and Original Participant List***

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January 22, 2013

Dear Colleagues:

We would like to invite you to participate in a 2-day working session to design and begin building a functional, inclusive, robust and effective homeland security education association. The invitation list for this initial meeting is selective, with no more than 15-17 participants expected. We are looking for creative energy, but - as important - the time and willingness to sustain a level of effort until the association is formed. While the group will explore a name, mission, vision and structure for the association, we also envision developing the other major components of an association, including governance and bylaws, education standards and a body of knowledge, conference planning, marketing and outreach, student sections and continuing education.

Pennsylvania State University Harrisburg has graciously agreed to host the meeting. The meeting will take place in Harrisburg, PA on May 9 & 10. All travel and lodging associated with the event must be self-organized and funded. Please reply by March 1, 2013.

Thank you for considering contributing your valuable expertise, time and resources to this meeting, and to the future of homeland security education.

We sincerely hope you will accept this invitation and look forward to working with you on this important and significant project.

Best regards...

Tom and Jim

Sincerely,



Jim Ramsay, PhD, MA, CSP  
Professor and Coordinator, Homeland Security Program  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University  
Tel: (386) 226-7153  
[james.ramsay@erau.edu](mailto:james.ramsay@erau.edu)



Tom Arminio  
Faculty Instructor of Homeland Security  
Penn State-Harrisburg  
Tel: (717) 948-6649  
[tja12@psu.edu](mailto:tja12@psu.edu)

**Invited Participant List (All present except where noted)**

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1. Michelle Majewski, PsyD (Marian University)
2. Bill Lahneman, PhD (Towson University)
3. Jeff Maxfield, PhD (Utah Valley)
4. Cheryl Polson, PhD (Kansas State University) → joined by phone
5. Linda Kiltz, PhD (Consulting, formerly Univ TX A&M Corpus Christie) → joined by phone
6. Terry O'Sullivan, PhD (University of Akron)
7. Keith Logan, JD (Kutztown University)
8. Chris Martin, MS (Advanced Technical Intelligence Center)
9. Dave Licate, PhD (University of Akron) → no show
10. Sam Morgan, MS (Doctoral Student; Central Pennsylvania College)
11. Art Liberty, JD (Doctoral Student, UMUC)
12. Jeremy Plant, PhD (Penn State)
13. Paul Thompson, JD (Penn State)
14. Dave McIntyre, PhD (National Graduate School)
15. Irmak Renda-Tanali Ph.D. (University of Maryland-University College)

***Appendix 2 – The Agenda for the Initial May 2013 Meeting***

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# Agenda for the First Annual “New HS Educator Organization” Meeting

May 9-10, 2013, Penn State-Harrisburg,  
777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057

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**Notes:**

Our meeting will be in the Olmsted Building, C-300.

Tom will pick us up on Thursday morning with a van. Please rendezvous in the lobby at 7:30 AM (after breakfast which is on your own at the hotel).

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**Day 1 (May 9, 2013) – 8 AM to 10:00 AM**

1. Introductions and orientation to our task. We’ll discuss the set of major tasks needing to be accomplished at the outset of our formation including objectives, personnel and a rough timeline.
2. We’ll revisit the organization name, and value proposition including a mission/vision statement.

**Break – 10:30-11:00 AM**

3. Wrap up name, value proposition and mission/vision discussion (if needed).
4. General discussion of which task forces to create (see list below), and assignment of personnel to each.

**Lunch – provided onsite, Noon-1:15 PM**

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**Day 1 – 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM**

5. Break up into multiple task forces in order to concentrate on separate groups of related subtasks of the overall association. Suggested task forces on (appreciating that there may be other sorts of subcommittees... also knowing that these efforts are essential at this time, but are also somewhat organic):
  - a. **Governance:** Constitution, bylaws and other governing documents. Elucidation of organizational and committee structure, process for election of officers, development of standard operating guidelines for each committee, etc.
  - b. **Education Standards:** Educational standards committee and accreditation, liaison to the Foundation for Higher Education Accreditation, development of a peer reviewed journal representing the organization, development of the body of knowledge for HS, etc.
  - c. **Membership and Outreach:** Conference planning, affiliations and outreach/marketing including website development, student section and honor society development and continuing professional education, membership types (individuals, programs, university’s / organizations, etc), membership requirements, etc.
  - d. **Business Plan:** Development a business plan, budget, dues and tax status, etc.

- e. Others (e.g., strategic planning, foundation-supported research, etc)?

**Day 1 – 4:30 PM to 5:00 PM**

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- 6. Reconvene; develop a plan for day 2.
- 7. Adjourn about 5 PM, meet for dinner at 7:00 PM

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**Day 2 (May 10, 2013) – 8 AM to 10:00 AM**

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- 8. Introduction and recap from Day 1. Questions, concerns, etc.
- 9. Reconvene task forces.
  - a. Complete the development of a Gantt chart for each task force: identify deliverables, key personnel, and next steps for each task force.
  - b. Develop a mechanism for each task force to continue to work over the summer including a conference calling and addition of new members as needed.

***Brunch (provided, onsite) 10:00 AM -10:30 AM***

**Day 2 – 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM**

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- 10. Each task force report to overall group.
- 11. Set date for an overall group conference call near the end of the summer.
- 12. Discuss when/how to complete the initial formation of the association by end of summer or early fall 2013.
- 13. Discuss possible partnership with (e.g., co-sponsor) CHDS/UAPI for the fall 2013 research conference in the on Sep 28, 2013 in Boston. Initial thoughts include having at least a half-day meeting before, during or after the CHDS meeting ends.

***Meeting Adjourned -- OR --***

***Head to DHS at 11:30 AM to meet Executive Director for Academic Engagement, Ms. Lauren Kielsmeier***

### Attachments and Pre-Reads before the May 2013 Meeting:

- ✓ American Management Association. "How to Build a High Performance Organization: A Global Study of Trends and Possibilities 2007-2017." <http://www.javaits.com/pdf/HRI-high-performance07.pdf>
- ✓ Graves, A. "What is your Value Proposition?" <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:zz4bNaBwoGk:filecache.drivetheweb.com/mr5/182754/download/What%2Bis%2BYour%2BValue%2BProposition%2BFINAL.pdf+graves+what+is+your+value+proposition&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>
- ✓ Kahan, J. "What's in a Name? The Meaning of Homeland Security." JHSE vol (2) 2013
- ✓ Krishan, A. "What are Academic Disciplines?" ESRC National Center for Research Methods, working paper series 03/09, Jan 2009.
- ✓ Morris, PW, L Crawford, D Hodgson, M Shepard, J Thomas. "Exploring the Role of Formal Bodies of Knowledge in defining a Profession: The Case of Project Management." International Journal of Project Management, 24 (2006).
- ✓ Pelfrey, W. and W. Kelly "Homeland Security Education: A Way Forward." HSAJ vol 9, no 13, Feb 2013
- ✓ Ramsay, J. "The Case to Accredite Homeland Security Programs: Why Outcomes-based Accreditation Makes Sense." JHSE vol 2 (2013)

***Appendix 3 – The Pre-meeting Balloting of Name and Value Proposition (including scores)***

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## Name and Value Proposition Ballot

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Fellow conspirators, for each ballot below, please indicate your preferences for your top 3 names and your top three value propositions. A score of 1 indicates a low score and while a 3 represents your top score. We'll discuss (and maybe word smith a bit) the top 3 choices in May and hopefully choose a winner.

Score (1-3)	Name
10	Society of Homeland Security Educators
5	Homeland Security Education Association
5	Society for the Advancement of Safety and Security Education
9	International Society for Civil Security
	Civilian Domestic Security and Safety Association
	Civilian Defense, Security, and Safety Studies Association
1	Association for Civilian Security Studies
9	Society for the Advancement of Civil Security
2	Civilian Domestic Security Studies Association
3	Civilian Security Studies Association
2	Society for the Study and Advancement of Security, Public Safety, and Defense
	Society for the Advancement of Security, Public Safety, and Defense Studies
5	International Society for the Study and Advancement of Safety, Security, and Defense
10	Association of Homeland Security Educators
4	Society for the Advancement of Civil and Homeland Security Education
2	Society for the Study of Domestic Safety, Security and Defense
14	International Society for the Advancement of Civil and Homeland Security Education

## Name and Value Proposition Ballot

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Score (1-3)	Value Proposition
6	The Society/Association seeks to play a unifying role for the global network of organizations and institutions that are involved in the efforts to secure society.
25	The Society/Association advances the field of civil security by conducting research, developing and disseminating best practices, networking academics, policy makers and practitioners, and by supporting accreditation in order to enhance legitimacy, and ensure responsible and appropriate education.
7	As the discipline of homeland security becomes more complex and the challenges of attempting to prevent attacks and preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating against all hazards become more demanding, the homeland security enterprise will be in constant need of highly educated and trained professionals to provide the leadership necessary to confront and provide viable solutions for the myriad of challenges that loom on the horizon.
17	The Society/Association advances the discipline of homeland security by: conducting research; developing and disseminating best practices; conducting outreach and networking academics, policy makers and practitioners; and by supporting accreditation to enhance legitimacy and ensure responsible and appropriate education.
5	The Society cultivates respect for the freedoms and protections, and the rule of law offered by a civil society in a globalized world.
	The Society inspires selfless service, integrity, and accountability, to include being good stewards of resources.
3	The Society exhibits moral and ethical conduct.
8	The Society/Association advocates for the education and development of the knowledge necessary to enable success for all professional homeland security practitioners. It facilitates the concept of a professional homeland security practitioner, which is not only relevant for today, but must also be flexible enough to grow as threats grow and new knowledge is gained and professional developments occurring. It encourages practitioners to develop the knowledge, awareness, and skills that will enhance a robust homeland security enterprise and facilitate a more secure homeland.
4	The Society/Association serves society in a transparent, responsible, knowledgeable and objective manner to ensure human security.
2	The Society engages in critical and analytical thinking and problem solving.
1	The Society develops a culture of preparedness.

***Appendix 4 – INSPRS Value Proposition, Vision, Mission and Core Values***

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### **Value Proposition**

The International Society for Preparedness, Resilience and Security (INSPRS) provides a global forum that advances the education and practice of disciplines engaged in civil security and public safety by conducting research, developing and disseminating best practices, networking academics, policy makers and practitioners, and by supporting accreditation in order to enhance legitimacy and ensure the highest quality education.

### **Vision Statement**

The International Society for Preparedness, Resilience and Security will be the leading global resource that integrates education, theory, analysis, and practice in order to promote the protection of democratic liberties, civil security, public safety, and overall societal resilience.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the International Society for Preparedness, Resilience and Security is to facilitate collaboration between academics, policy makers, practitioners and organizations that contribute to the civil security and public safety enterprise. INSPRS supports its members through:

- ✓ Identifying and supporting best practices and innovation, trans-disciplinary research, policy development and analysis;
- ✓ Advancing the inherent integrative nature of the various related homeland security disciplines by promoting coordination, communication, cooperation, and networking (“C3N”) throughout the larger homeland security enterprise;
- ✓ Fostering the well-being of its members by sponsoring meetings, conferences and other professional outreach and exchanges including the dissemination of peer reviewed research and other scholarly contributions to the body of knowledge;
- ✓ Supporting development of future professionals through mentoring, grants, internships and advocacy;
- ✓ Promoting the advancement of educational systems and structures including professional development, credentialing and accreditation;
- ✓ Promoting and distributing the scholarship of teaching and learning.

### **Core Values**

International Society for Preparedness, Resilience and Security believes in maintaining, cultivating and practicing the highest professional and ethical standards. Our core values include:

- **Accountability:** INSPRS will be responsible for achieving our mission, managing its finances, and for providing the highest level of quality in the services it provides to its members;
- **Authenticity:** INSPRS will vigorously pursue professionalism, honesty, and integrity;
- **Integration:** INSPRS believes collaboration within and across all disciplines related to its mission is essential to a comprehensive understanding of preparedness, resilience and security;
- **Respect & Service:** INSPRS seeks and values the specific skills and knowledge each member brings to the profession and will actively seek to make positive contributions to the profession.

*Appendix 5 – The Thank you note to DHS Executive Director Kielsmeier*

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**From:** Ramsay, James D.

**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 9:37 PM

**To:** lauren.kielsmeier@dhs.gov; Lauren.Kielsmeier@HQ.DHS.GOV

**Cc:** PAUL B THOMPSON; THOMAS JOHN ARMINIO; kristen.Holden@us.gt.com; shelley.rappaport@us.gt; Andrew.Papp@us.gt.com; ptnwc@yahoo.com

**Subject:** Thank you!!

**Importance:** High

Ms. Lauren Kielsmeier, Executive Director for Academic Engagement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Dear Lauren,

Thank you again for the generous use of your time. It was delightful to have met you, and our group is grateful to have had the chance to discuss both homeland security education and our exciting new venture. It was also quite wonderful that so many of your staff were able to join us!

Since the onset of academic homeland security programs around 2005-06, several of us have built undergraduate and graduate degree programs in homeland security, have graduated hundreds of students, arranged hundreds more internships, have published books, chapters, papers, on a wide variety of HS topics (such as environmental security and critical infrastructure protection) and even designed and published model curricula in HS. As such, and with over 300 academic programs nationwide, we now find ourselves a group of academics committed to the further maturation of homeland security as both an emergent and distinct academic discipline as well as a profession central to our Nation's preparedness and security.

Indeed, the name of our newly minted organization is "The International Society for Preparedness, Resilience and Security" (INSPRS.org). We also have settled on a vision and mission, set of core values and a value proposition (see attached). Further, we are actively working on development of our governing documents, articles of incorporation, membership and outreach, etc. One of the very exciting activities we're engaged in as well is the development of education standards and a pathway to develop recognized accreditation of both undergraduate and graduate programs. We're also finalizing an affiliation with a peer reviewed journal (the Journal of HS Education; <http://www.journalhse.org/>) and a national honor society for HS students (the Order of the Sword and Shield; <http://securityhonorsociety.org/>).

We would be honored to be able to maintain regular and open lines of communication with you and your staff as we continue to foster HS education and as we seek to assist you meeting the complex and dynamic needs of DHS. Please feel free to contact our group whenever we might assist you in your work with the Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council – as some of us have several years of experience doing exactly what the Council is proposing to investigate.

One last thing, we are intending to deliver an announcement of our new Society at the upcoming Homeland Security education summit (sponsored by CHDS) to be held on September 28, 2013 in Boston. Please feel that you're more than welcome to attend, it would be grand to see you again!! (More information on this conference will be forthcoming).

Sincerely,

Jim Ramsay, Tom Arminio co-Chairs, INSPRS Board of Directors

JR

=====

Jim Ramsay, PhD, MA, CSP  
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