

Our Center provides statewide leadership which supports diversity and ensures the industry's academic programs remain cutting-edge.



2015 Year In Review

HSEM Center of Excellence Celebrates Ten-Year Anniversary

The State's Center of Excellence for Homeland Security-Emergency Management celebrated its tenth anniversary in June of 2015 hosting an Educator-Practitioners Summit at Pierce College in Puyallup. Governor Jay Inslee congratulated the Center on its anniversary stating his confidence that "the Center will continue to provide the necessary statewide leadership to ensure that this industry's academic programs remain cutting-edge."

The Summit's goal was for educators and industry partners to learn about best practices and industry trends. Robert Ezelle, current state EMD Director and Jim Mullen, his predecessor, set the tone for discussions stating that industry needs to have a strong presence in the development of training and education programs for the future of the HSEM field. "They are celebrating 10 years of educational focus on our profession," said Eric Holdeman Director of the Center for Regional Disaster Resilience who served as the host for the Center's anniversary luncheon celebration.

Over the past decade the Center has served as the leader advising educators of the increasing demand for professionals in this new emerging field. In 2007, the Center supported Pierce College's establishment of their online HSEM AA/Certificate Degree Program and, three years ago helped Pierce complete agreements with seven (7) other colleges statewide to offer this program on their campuses. In the past eight years the HSEM career field has continued to rapidly expand and evolve and in 2015, it reached a point where Pierce College decided to establish a BAS-HSEM degree to fill a leadership and management training gap in the HSEM educational pathway. Pierce proceeded with applications to the State Board of Community/Technical (SBCTC) and NW Accreditation Commission and anticipates receiving final approvals this year to begin offering the degree in the fall of 2016.

In addition to its work on the HSEM degree programs, the Center and its industry advisory board worked with the maritime, port and transportation industry to complete a skills assessment to develop a certificate in Maritime, Port and Transportation Security (MPTC). The MPTC will be available at Highline College which also is one of the eight (8) HSEM AA collaborating colleges. Highline will utilize part of the HSEM curriculum along with their Security Officer training to offer the MPTC certificate program in the fall of 2016.

In November of this past year one of the Military Transitions Manager at Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) and State Board for Community and Technical College (SBCTC) Workforce staff contacted the Center. They asked the Center to assist in bringing the Mission Critical Operations (MCO) curriculum from Cleveland College in North Carolina to support a 20 week Career Skills Program on JBLM. The Center's subject matter experts have been working with industry and JBLM to craft a customized curriculum that addresses the training requirement for MCO and establishes a military transition certificate program by fall of 2016.

You can read the Summit summary by clicking [Here](#)

Or you can view video footage of the Summit on our YouTube page [Here](#)



Ready, Set, Go!! Work Experience Marketplace is Launched!

In 2015 the Center launched its Work Experience Marketplace which helps students, employers and educators identify the latest jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities under the professional pathway of HSEM.

David Corr, a recent graduate of the HSEM AA degree program, completed an internship with the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) and was hired as their Division Assistant for Tactical Operations Support in the Critical Incident Planning and Mapping System.

In a recent conversation with Linda Crerar, Director of the HSEM Center, David credits his hard work, good grades, and the internship as the reasons why he was able to secure the position with WASPC. He complimented the on-going support and guidance he received from HSEM program staff in securing and completing his internship.



Employer Engagement Pilot: What are employers looking for from the future workforce?

The Center collaborated with several college program managers and administrators to develop an employer survey, "designed to capture key information about demands and trends, skills and competency gaps, and important curriculum updates in our industry," said Wendy Freitag, Communications and Outreach Coordinator.

Following the initial survey, the Center held one-on-one industry meetings with hiring managers to solicit their feedback. A total of 20 organizations participated in the pilot from public, private and nonprofit organizations.

Freitag reported, "Employers clearly recognized internships as a direct pathway to future employment and endorsed internships as a way to ascertain if a student would be a good fit for their organization." View the full pilot report on the Center's website www.coe-hsem.com or by contacting Wendy Freitag at wfreitag@pierce.ctc.edu.



Building Diversity and Empowerment Among Women in HSEM

The Center hosted its first annual Women in HSEM Leadership Forum on October 8, 2015 at Lakewold Gardens in Lakewood, Washington.

"We had an amazing turnout of women in attendance ranging from all different sectors and backgrounds from Criminal Justice, TSA, Department of Justice, and students from the Pierce College HSEM degree program and the University of Washington's Infrastructure Planning Master's program." said Kellie Hale, Special Projects Coordinator for the Center.

The goal for the forum was to provide a positive environment for women entering the field to learn from those who have a proven track record in the Criminal Justice, Corrections, Public Health, Cyber-Security, and Emergency Management in the All-Hazards and Security industry. Our expert panelists and mentors were able to speak upon their own experiences with the participants about their lives as All-Hazards and Security professionals and subject matter experts.

The outcome from the forum will be to establish a mentor/mentee program.

A good mentor/mentee relationship focuses on the person being mentored and helping them to further or set career/education goals. The mentors in this program will be women who are already established professionals in the All-Hazard and Security industry and will provide guidance on how to remain authentic in a male dominated industry, form positive partnerships, collaborate effectively, being an optimistic team member, and improve leadership qualities.

Link to video and Forum summary [HERE](#)



Center Recognizes HSEM Advisory Board Members

As the Center moves into its 11th year of operation it is recognizing several long time Advisory Board Members who are leaving the Board after many years of service and providing guidance and support to the Center and the SBCTC system colleges.

Thank you Vickie Brown, Brian Felczak, Steve Fenton, Patrick Knouff, and Sarah Miller.

The Center welcomes four new members Erika Voss - Microsoft, Kathy Woods - Amazon, Jennifer Lord - NW Healthcare Response Network, and Morgan Zantua - UW Tacoma.

Link to Advisory Board [HERE](#)



Washington Service Member for Life Transition Summit

Our Center, staff, Advisory Board Members and Center Partners actively participated in the two day Military Transition event at Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM). The Center presented on two Industry panel workshops on Public Service & Government Sector and Information & Communication Technologies on the first day.

The Center also booth on Day 3 at the Career Fair at McChord Air Force Base. Board Members Steve Lettic, Steve Vincent and Vickie Leighton along with the Center's Director Linda Crerar provided career pathway, employment and other training information.



This event was sponsored by the national and local Chambers of Commerce, corporations, small business and the Governor's Office and several state agencies including Veterans and Commerce. This is the second year that the Center's staff and Board Members have participated.

Steve Lettic said that he was "swamped with Service Members asking questions at the end of the panels." He talked about the CTC's public safety, security and emergency management programs and the role of the Center. Over 600 people attended the Government/Public Service.

Creating a Culture of Preparedness for CTC Campuses



Our first Campus Safety, Security and Emergency Management Conference on June 17, 2015 hosted by Pierce College at their Puyallup campus. The conference sponsored by the Center and the CTC's Security, Safety and Emergency Management Council brought participants from colleges and universities throughout the NW to hear from over 20 presenters on how to address their security, safety and preparedness needs on their campuses.



Brock Long, a nationally recognized expert, consultant and speaker on building robust emergency management and public health preparedness programs joined us as our key note speaker.

The three panel discussions were held on disaster recovery and restoration, Cleary and Title IX compliance and impacts of globalization and risks for colleges' international programs and

Our Campus Security and Safety managers and staff attended workshops that ranged from learning about personal cyber security safety, emergency management “best practices”, impacts of new and emerging technologies for campuses, to the well-attended Continuity of Operations (COOP) workshop.

travel risks for the campus community when they go out of country.

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