



## ASU, UNLV students collaborate to solve homeland security challenges



## Students develop innovative ways to secure crowded places in Hardening Soft Target challenge

In the parlance of homeland security, soft targets are places that are easily accessible to the general public and relatively unprotected. Marathons, large gatherings, sporting events and

shopping malls are considered soft targets. Soft targets are challenging to secure. The Department of Homeland Security is working directly with students through programs like Department of Homeland Security Centers of Excellence to discover new and innovative ideas to solve challenging problems like soft targets.

During the weekend of March 26–28, innovative students from both Arizona State University and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas competed in "Hardening Soft Targets" — a design challenge hosted by the Center for Accelerating Operational Efficiency, a DHS Center for Excellence led by ASU. [READ MORE](#)

## TSA-CAOE Symposium 2021 - June 8-9



Center for Accelerating Operational Efficiency (CAOE) is pleased to continue the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Symposium in 2021. This two-day symposium on Building a Resilient Transportation Future will be in a virtual format and will feature leaders from the TSA, academia and industry. Confirmed speakers for the event include

## Keynotes

Soraya Correa, DHS Chief Procurement Officer

Darby LaJoye, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Administrator, TSA

Stacey Fitzmaurice, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Deputy  
Administrator, TSA

## Speakers

Christopher Bidwell, Senior Vice President Security, ACI-NA

Vicki Bier, Professor Emeritus, Industrial and Systems Engineering, University of  
Wisconsin

Justin Erbacci, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)

Robert Handfield, Executive Director of Supply Chain Resource Cooperative and  
Bank of America Distinguished Professor of Operations and Supply Chain  
Management, North Carolina State University

Alexis Long, CEO Trade and Travel Accelerator, Pangiam

Daniel McCoy, Chief Innovation Officer, TSA

Deanna Sellnow, Professor and Assistant Director, Nicholson School of  
Communication and Media, University of Central Florida

Tim Sellnow, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Nicholson School of  
Communications and Media, University of Central Florida

Paul Slovic, President Decision Research and Professor, University of Oregon

[Register Here](#)

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## CAOE Summer Research Experience

The annual CAOES Summer Experience Quantitative Analytics (SEQAL) will be starting with a new group of students on June 1. This four-week research experience will combine significant data analytics training with real-world problem solving for TSA operational challenges. As our first virtual summer experience, the program was open to technology minded innovative students from around the U.S. Twenty-six students from 12 academic partners were chosen from a competitive application process. The academic partners included 8 MSI partners; John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Morgan State University, San Diego State University, Texas Southern University, University of California-Santa Cruz, University of Central Florida, University of Houston, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

During the program students will learn new tools and methodologies, develop simulation models and collaborate with students, faculty and technology experts from around the country. The experience will conclude with the students presenting their analysis, results and recommendations to TSA and CAOES leadership.

## Undergraduate Researcher Highlight: Fernanda Nunez, ASU



### Undergraduate researcher works towards improving checkpoint efficiency

Dedicated airport security gives passengers a sense of safety when they fly. But long lines at Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checkpoints can cause traveler stress and missed flights. As a researcher at the Center for Accelerating Operational Efficiency (CAOE), Fernanda Nunez is helping to reduce wait times at security checkpoints without compromising passenger safety. [READ MORE](#)

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## CAOE website has new look

Since our inception in 2017, the core mission of CAO E has been to develop and apply advanced analytics tools and technologies to improve efficiency in homeland security operations. With that mission in mind we made some changes to the website to more clearly tell the story of our successes and make it easier to find information of interest. The key changes include:

- refreshed homepage
- updated website structure with research projects categorized by our strategic initiatives
- a new search function that easily allows you to search by researchers, project names, component agencies and more
- updated About Us page
- more educational content with featured stores on our three educational pillars: professional workforce development, undergraduate experience and graduate research

Please visit [caoe.asu.edu](http://caoe.asu.edu) to see all the exciting updates.



## U.S. DHS COE Summit 2021 - May 17-21

### There is still time to register

Hosted by the DHS Centers of Excellence (COE), this event is a unique opportunity for COE researchers to connect and network with DHS components, federal, state, and local stakeholders, as well as industry partners to present current and emerging solutions to threats and challenges faced by DHS.

Visit [register2021.coesummit.org](https://register2021.coesummit.org) for full agenda and registration.

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## MSI Summer Research Team Receives Follow on Funding



The purpose of the DHS Summer Research Teams Program is to increase and enhance the scientific leadership at Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) in research areas that support the mission and goals of DHS. In summer 2020, CAOE welcomed Professor Eduardo Perez and student researcher Logan Taunton to work with CAOE researchers.



In follow up to the exceptional involvement during the summer research, Perez was awarded a grant from the Department of Homeland Security with additional funding from CAOE and his home institution Texas State University. This research effort will expand on his summer work and focus first on developing a simulation-optimization procedure to evaluate the waiting times and queue lengths at airport security checkpoints under multiple equipment and staffing levels. [READ MORE](#)

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## Upcoming Events

[May 18-19 - COE 2021 Summit](#)

[June 8-10 - TSA-CAOE Symposium](#)



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