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# IHS NEWSLETTER

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*The Institute for Homeland Security exists to provide innovative, value-added knowledge tailored to the needs of industry and public institutions, to protect critical infrastructure supporting Texas and the nation's economy. We aim to enhance the security and resilience of the transportation, energy, chemical, and healthcare sectors for Texans and the Texas economy.*



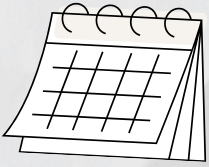
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## **Critical Infrastructure Research Forum (CIRF)**

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The SHSU Institute for Homeland Security has launched the Critical Infrastructure Research Forum (CIRF) to advance research in critical infrastructure protection (CIP). This initiative aims to fill knowledge gaps and develop strategic solutions to mitigate risks across all critical infrastructure sectors. The primary goal is to produce innovative, tailored knowledge that meets the specific needs of industry and public institutions, thereby safeguarding critical infrastructure vital to both Texas and the nation's economy. Funding for CIRF is sourced from corporate sponsorships and research grants. A dedicated Steering Committee will offer guidance and insights, assisting in the identification and prioritization of research projects undertaken by the Institute for Homeland Security (IHS) research team. This team consists of academic and professional subject matter experts collaborating closely with industry partners throughout the research process. Additionally, SHSU students will play a crucial role as research assistants within CIRF. Their involvement not only supports research efforts but also provides industry professionals with opportunities to mentor and engage with future professionals pursuing careers in critical infrastructure protection. This student engagement aims to create a direct pathway to employment within the field of CIP.





# RESEARCH



[Online Research Link](#)



## Enhancing Crisis Resilience in Healthcare Supply Chains

*Dr. Willow, Yang & Dr. Pamela, Zelbst*

Dr. Willow Yang is an Assistant Professor of Supply Chain Management at Sam Houston State University (SHSU). She is an active contributor to academic literature and serves as a reviewer for several prestigious journals. Dr. Pamela Zelbst is a Distinguished Professor of Supply Chain Management at Sam Houston State University (SHSU). Dr. Zelbst holds two patents and has over forty published articles in high-ranking journals.

This research aims to equip Texas healthcare organizations with the necessary tools and insights to enhance the resilience of their supply chains. This includes understanding vulnerabilities, developing resilience strategies, establishing a Supplier Risk Assessment Scorecard, and finding the right balance between efficiency and resilience. It provides a detailed



examination of the inherent vulnerabilities within healthcare supply chains, including over-reliance on global suppliers, supply chain complexity and lack of transparency, just-in-time inventory management practices, and logistical challenges posed by the worldwide scope of sourcing and distribution. Multiple strategies to enhance the resilience of healthcare supply chains are proposed, including identifying and prioritizing critical supplies, diversification of supply sources, collaboration among healthcare organizations, what-if scenario planning, and supply network mapping. These strategies aim to establish a supply chain that is both responsive and robust, capable of withstanding sudden demands and disruptions.



## TEAM MEMBER HIGHLIGHT <<<

### Shannon Lane Project Manager II



**Shannon M. Lane, Ph.D.**, is the **Program Manager II** for research at *Sam Houston State University's* Institute for Homeland Security (IHS), where she brings extensive experience and a strong commitment to building the Institute's research portfolio. She oversees a team of up to 33 researchers and is known for her collaborative approach, turning administrative, team, and researcher feedback into research initiatives that ensure tailored solutions to specific challenges. She has served on SHSU's **Institutional Review Board (IRB)** to uphold ethical research practices and has played a key role in strategic planning and research projects benefiting rural Texas communities through **SHSU's Center for Rural Studies**. She previously served as the Undergraduate Coordinator at *Mississippi State University's* Department of Sociology. Currently, Dr. Lane is the co-advisor to the Homeland Security Student Association and teaches *Bearkat University 1101*, a course designed to help new students develop the skills needed to successfully navigate the college environment. An active member of **The Society for Research Administrators International**, she enjoys participating in their various trainings and events and is currently working on her Certification in Infrastructure Protection.

## >>> EVENTS <<<

### PHEM ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

- **Date:** August 29, 2024
- **Time:** 8:30am - 12:00pm
- **Location:** SHSU Woodlands Center
- **Link:** [Register Here](#)
  - Join us for the PHEM Roundtable on Aug. 29! The main focus of this conference is strategies for combating workplace violence.

### THOUGHT LEADERS CONFERENCE

- **Date:** October 15, 2024
- **Time:** 8am - 3:30pm
- **Location:** SHSU Woodlands Center
- **Link:** [Register Here](#)
  - Join us on October 15th for the IHS Thought Leaders Conference! This conference aims to take a tri-focus approach, highlighting cutting-edge information, strategic defense, and expert insights.

## PODCAST <<<

In the wake of **Hurricane Beryl**, we sit down with *Space City Weather's* **Eric Berger** and **Matt Lanza** to discuss forecasting and communication challenges for meteorologists and emergency planners. We also touch on **artificial intelligence forecasting, emergency planning**, and the importance of investing in a **resilient energy grid**. You can find their work at [Space City Weather](#) and [The Eyewall](#).



<https://ihsonline.org/podcast>