

## **IHS - Critical Infrastructure Research Forum**

The SHSU Institute for Homeland Security announces the creation of the Critical Infrastructure Research Forum (CIRF) with the goal of establishing a funded pipeline to conduct research on critical infrastructure protection (CIP) topics. CIRF is a collaboration between IHS and industry partners to identify gaps in knowledge and to develop strategic solutions to mitigate risk across all CI sectors. Our goal is 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.

Funding for CIRF comes through corporate sponsorships and research grants. Our Steering Committee will provide insights and guidance as we identify and prioritize research projects completed by members of the IHS research team. The research team will be comprised of academic and professional subject matter experts working with industry partners as part of the research process. SHSU students will serve as research assistants giving industry professionals the opportunity to engage with those pursuing careers in CIP, creating a pathway to employment.

An additional goal of CIRF is to create professional development training opportunities and offer workshops to share research findings and best practices for CIP risk mitigation. Training will align with industry needs and security management regulatory compliance. Partners will have access to these resources to improve overall performance and to achieve bottom line goals.

For more information on becoming an early adopter to participate as a member of the CIRF Steering Committee or to join as a corporate member, please send an email to <a href="IHS@shsu.edu">IHS@shsu.edu</a>. We will host an on-line overview of the partnership process on a yet to be determined date at the end of Feburary 2024.

