Forum: 5th Annual Homeland Defense and Security Education Summit  
Speech: Remarks  
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Good morning and welcome to the University of Maryland University College. It is indeed a tremendous privilege for all of us here at UMUC to once again host this summit...as it truly underscores the university's profound commitment to academic excellence and knowledge leadership in homeland defense and security education.

As we are all acutely aware, the public safety environment has become far more challenging...and our emergency response systems, increasingly sophisticated...in a world that is volatile and uncertain...complex and ambiguous. And whereas, leadership was once the realm of solitary heroes...it is now defined by inspired teamwork.

Not surprisingly then, government at every level is turning to the academic community for help in preparing a new breed of homeland security and public safety professionals. Men and women who are strategic thinkers, effective communicators, and responsive team players….with both the intellectual agility and the technical know-how to make split-second decisions in the face of escalating risk and evolving threat.

As the nation's largest public university and one of the world's fastest growing virtual campuses...UMUC has always worked closely with members of both the military and the public safety communities to support their efforts with leading-edge academic opportunities.

With that in mind, we now offer undergraduate degrees in criminal justice, fire service administration, and environmental management....investigative forensics, homeland security, and emergency management.

UMUC also provides graduate programs in management and information technology...with specializations in criminal justice, emergency management, homeland security, information assurance, and intelligence management.
Moreover, our graduate school's Center for Security Studies continues to serve as a greenhouse for innovative academic programs and research efforts. And most recently, UMUC unveiled its new cyber education initiative...which includes two master of science degrees in cybersecurity and cybersecurity policy...along with a bachelor of science in cybersecurity.

We are also developing a remote access Cyber Virtual Lab...modeled after UMUC's award-winning Systems Security Lab...which will give our students a unique chance to experiment from a distance...using real world scenarios and hands-on applications to detect and combat simulated cyber attacks.

Of course, all of these forward-focused programs are designed to further our students' career aspirations...while at the same time meeting critical workforce development needs in all of these areas.

So we have recruited an outstanding faculty of scholar-practitioners...who are active and accomplished public safety and information security professionals...with solid academic credentials and exceptional teaching skills.

Likewise, we have created a phenomenal alliance of local, national, and international learning partners...to ensure that our programs are up to speed, and our graduates, up to job. And we are extremely proud to include this Association...and its extraordinary members...in that growing alliance.

In fact, by providing curriculum enhancements...assisting in adjunct faculty recruitment...and supporting collaborative research efforts...you have helped make UMUC's homeland defense and security education programs even stronger. And we look forward to further expanding our relationship as UMUC begins to explore the potential for discipline-specific accreditation for its homeland security programs.

Certainly, today's summit offers yet another wonderful opportunity for all of us to create new knowledge and share promising practices. But even more important...it promotes a more inclusive learning ecology.

One that empowers us to identify critical interdependencies; integrate common learning principles; and uphold academic standards of excellence...in our mutual quest to educate the next generation of homeland security and public safety professionals.
On that note, I would like to thank two very special UMUC faculty members for their dedicated efforts in coordinating this summit...Dr. Irmak Renda-Tenali from our Graduate School for Management...and Mr. Steve Carter from our School of Undergraduate Studies.

Now I will let you continue on with the day's events. Please feel free to ask any of our faculty or staff members for assistance, should you need it. And once again...thank you for choosing UMUC as your conference site.

Thank you.

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