Borders, Trade, and Immigration (BTI) Institute

A DHS Center of Excellence

BTI’s mission is to enhance the Nation’s ability to secure its borders, facilitate legitimate trade and travel, and ensure the integrity of the immigration system.

Research and Education Capabilities

- Transnational flows analysis for legitimate trade facilitation
- Border security technology development
- Policy-informing knowledge products
- Education and training for the current and future homeland security workforce

Feedback from Our Partners

“The BTI Institute provides us access to a cadre of world-class universities. BTI Institute’s academic partners at this Center of Excellence are at the cutting edge of their fields and supply us with innovative resources to assist us in advancing our mission to safeguard America’s borders while enabling legitimate trade and travel.”

Siobhan Chambers, Operations Research Analyst
U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2018

“The BTI Institute has been instrumental in crafting innovative, solutions-driven projects and programs that enhance security in the Southeast Texas region. The resources BTI Institute brings to bear are far beyond the scope of what a local or regional agency could garner.”

Sue Landry, Director of Homeland Security
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission, 2018
Impacts

**Forecasting migration trends to inform policy**

To help Customs and Border Protection prepare for a potential migration crisis, BTI Institute researchers are exploring the dimensions of the Venezuelan and Nicaraguan migration outflow. The results will help inform policies to prevent a broader hemispheric crisis.

**Evaluating the use of blockchain to facilitate legitimate trade**

Because of the significant cost of supply chain disruption, BTI Institute researchers are exploring innovative opportunities provided by blockchain and other relevant technologies for transforming the entry data collection process in order to facilitate the timely analysis of supply chain risk and to ensure trade compliance.

**Securing trade into U.S. seaports with sensors deployed via UAS**

Each year, more than 11 million maritime containers arrive at U.S. seaports. BTI Institute researchers are evaluating the feasibility of using unmanned autonomous systems (UAS) mounted with cameras, thermal imaging cameras, or other potential sensors to enhance cargo container screening.

**Provide DHS personnel educational opportunities for career advancement**

Through university-based education systems and online certificates, the BTI Institute is developing new degrees in Border Management, Trade, and Transport Security and new certificate programs in Border Operations Management and Security.