HSI CITIZENS ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS

Success Stories

HSI San Juan:

- After exposing HSI San Juan Citizens Academy participants to child exploitation investigations presentations, HSI San Juan has seen an improvement in awareness such that alumni provide collaboration and support with iGuardian events and outreaches. Specifically, personnel from telecommunications companies have collaborated by expediting returns for child exploitation summons and other official requests from the child exploitation investigations unit allowing agents to take more immediate action.

- Personnel from the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico that have participated in the Citizens Academy have supported child exploitation investigations by helping agents recognize suspects' mental health issues that may be a concern to the safety of law enforcement, individuals in the community or the defendant themselves.

- Alumni have assisted with the development of key partnerships in support of the HSI San Juan-led Caribbean Anti-Money Laundering Alliance task force.

- Alumni who practice the medical profession have provided training to Special Response Teams and Rapid Response Team members improving the quality of emergency care that agents can provide to wounded officers and members of the public that encountered and are in need of immediate care.

HSI Tampa:

- Numerous investigations for HSI Tampa have resulted from direct referrals provided by the HSI Tampa Citizens Academy graduates. The alumni have also provided subject matter expertise in various areas to assist investigations: including precious gems authentication and financial fraud real estate schemes guidance.

- Along with investigative assistance, the alumni have afforded many outreach opportunities for HSI, and even facilitated a meeting with the State Attorney General. This meeting led the way to a meeting with the Florida Governor's Policy Director and provided an excellent opportunity for HSI Tampa to discuss its overall mission and relay how HSI directly helps keep the nation secure.

- In addition, the relationships formed with the citizens have brought positive media coverage as several alumni are members of the media, thus allowing the agency to effectively create and bolster awareness of HSI and its broad range of investigative areas.

HSI Detroit:

- HSI Detroit Citizens Academy alumni have provide Human trafficking leads, assistance with investigations related to COVID-19, and distribution of personal protective equipment.

HSI New York:

- HSI New York has seen a substantial improvement with several community and private sector partners as a result of the Citizens Academy. Our Cyber contacts at Pace University have provided several free trainings to our office, including training on scraping the Dark Web for information relevant to investigations that would otherwise be missed. In addition, we partner with Pace University to help create student projects that are in support of real law enforcement efforts. For example, the students worked this year to determine if there was a potential increase in the use of cryptocurrencies to launder money by DTOs and other transitional criminal organizations.

- We've also had several local religious leaders participate in our program which directly helped create our local Chaplains Program.

- HSI New York also has an improved relationship with several U.S. banks.

HSI Philadelphia:

- Based upon the HSI Philadelphia Citizens Academy, we were invited to speak a social media platform on about HSI and operating during the COVID pandemic. One of the CA participants also has volunteered to become the office's chaplain.

HSI Boston:

- A participant in the HSI Boston Citizens Academy was the Director of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. HSI Boston has been able to foster this relationship to speak to students at Harvard about careers at HSI, have utilized the relationship with Harvard and MIT to brief our cyber-crime portfolio to create a strategic relationship and seek assistance with technical tools that we do not currently have available. We have also used this relationship to help bridge gaps and misconceptions within academia about what HSI does. Our relationships have led to increased visibility and connectivity to the MIT Lincoln labs, specifically on cyber-enabled projects, most recently, with C3.