



MITCHELL E. DANIELS, Jr., Governor  
**STATE OF INDIANA**

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

J. ERIC DIETZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear Colleague:

As we finish the sixth year at war with terrorists, coupled with severe flooding, drought, and a bridge collapse in the Midwest, mass murder on the Virginia Tech campus, wildfires in Greece, Peruvian earthquakes, and the Indian Ocean tsunami, we are reminded the world is a volatile place. Disaster workers, businesses, emergency managers, and private citizens have become increasingly dependent upon pre-disaster planning and prevention. The upcoming **Indiana Emergency Management and Homeland Security Higher Education Conference: Developing Partnerships for Future Success** scheduled for **October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton North, Indianapolis** responds to the need to provide an educational base for our public safety responders as well as preparing our campuses for emergencies.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is sponsoring the third conference, which will be hosted by the Indiana Emergency Management/ Homeland Security Higher Education Advisory Board. The conference is targeted to higher education administrators and staff, campus preparedness and safety officials, and those responsible for ensuring public health among campus populations. The conference will address the interfaces among these groups, various units within public agencies (both state and federal), and private enterprises.

The day and a half conference will feature national experts on emergency management, public safety, homeland security, public health, and higher education curriculum development. The presentations are designed to promote dialog among participants regarding higher education's role in providing opportunities for initial preparation, as well as professional development, in these areas. It is important to note that part of the program will focus specifically on preparedness and safety of our college and university campuses. This conference will provide a forum for collaboration and interaction through scheduled presentations and informal discussion groups generated by the participants.

We look forward to meeting representatives from your institution during the conference and to continued development of an effective and efficient Homeland Security-Higher Education partnership. The challenges and threats we face are significant and unprecedented. Let us work together for the ultimate goal of a prepared Indiana!

Please direct this invitation to those at your institution who might be interested in attending the conference. Additional information regarding registration and conference agenda may be found on the Indiana Department of Homeland Security website at [www.in.gov/dhs/3264](http://www.in.gov/dhs/3264).

Professionally,

*J. Eric Dietz*

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