

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

Friday, May 10, 2024
ZOOM Meeting 11:30 a.m.

MINUTES

- I. In attendance: Felicia Adkins, Warden DOC; Dr. Carl Bridges, DACC Provost; Gina Davis, DACC Perkins/Foundation; Thomas Gregory, Director VC Probation Office; Nathan Howie, DACC Security; LaTana Lillard, DACC Advising; Jane McFadden, Coroner VC; Penny McConnell, DACC Assistant VP; December Melville, Sergeant, ISP District 10; Rickey Williams, DACC Faculty; Ryan Wyckoff, Interim Dean L.A.; Chris Yates, Chief of Police-Danville
- II. Introductions: Lisa Osborne, Administrative Assistant, Liberal Arts turned the meeting over to Rickey Williams. Rickey Williams, Professor, Criminal Justice. Rickey welcomed everyone, asked each individual to introduce themselves, and proceeded with the agenda.
- III. Old Business
 - i. Brochure development: Request from Rickey to the members, if they see any updates to be made. It is being looked at by the branding team to insure the brochure is under guidelines, as per Dr. Bridges
 - ii. IT development: Milo and Live Scan are being kept up to date. If CRIM 210 is completed it will be updated.
- IV. New Business: Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (Agencies/Committee Members): The pendulum is swinging back to the need for more candidates and employees in the criminal justice field. Currently there are 70 officers in Danville. There is a need for this area to remain competitive. Excellent discussion to implement and host a criminal justice specific career fair at DACC. Vision to include all areas of law enforcement, with 4-6 hours that will inform attendees on what kind of careers can be expected, how to be competitive in the field, and hands-on activities. Chief Yates asked for thoughts, preparation, partnering with the training center academy, and modeling it after the BLAST Program in Danville. Possible partnership with District 118. The members will keep in touch to come up with an outline and dates for this fair the 2024-2025 academic year.

Dr. Bridges called for involvement of our Career Services Department (Ami Siefert) to assist in planning this career fair with career specific activities and to present a realistic preview of careers. Lisa will follow-up with Ami and make introductions.

Conversation with the members about age and education needed for IL State Police, this is considered a legacy career and is a great segue from the ROTC and military veterans. Sergeant Melville says this is an easy transition using the Dept. of Defense Skill Bridge, ISP has been using it since 2023 and it is working very well. They must complete it within 180 days from the end of their service date, but ISP requires only 90 days.

Director Thomas asked Sergeant Melville about recruits with bachelor's degrees. Those candidates are few and far between.

Rickey checked in with the group on course work? What else is needed? There seems to be a chasm between the community and the law enforcement departments. That needs to change and myths about law enforcement need dispelled. The community needs to get a sense of what law and order means for this community, officers are here to help. This will require real conversations between community members and law enforcement. The pay scale for law enforcement has changed in recent years and the pay for VC has increased to a competitive wage both for Danville PD and VC Probation. This should encourage more candidates to look into this as a career that can provide a quality of life.

- V. College Express –Nick Chatterton: No update
 - VI. Internships: There are two summer internships 2024. Rickey requests that members send him criteria and timelines for paperwork for internships to be accepted by each agency. The City of Danville takes a month to process and each agency has different requirements.
 - VII. How can DACC assist in your agency's recruitment: Ms. Lillard inquired about the differences in providing an AAS versus an AA Transfer. Rickey stated that age can be a factor in AAS, if a student is too young to apply to positions, but is ready to go to work. So the logistics can be a bit complicated and encouragement to pursue one degree over another may need to be individualized for each student.
- Chief Yates threw out the idea of tailoring the curriculum to fit a schedule so that the student can work while going to school. Other ideas included conversation about scholarships for those needing an associate or bachelor degree for candidates who have already had some classes at DACC or are needing to get their bachelor's. Items like District 118's Club 365 where alumni/stakeholders contribute \$1 a day. Scholarships will go a long way to make a 'no resistance' pathway to completing a degree. Another idea was to have Vermilion County or the City have a fund for future employees to go to school or to pay off student loans; perhaps modeled after Northwestern?
- VIII. Employment Opportunities: VCP is at full staff at the moment. ISP are in active hiring mode for code and uniform. They will also pay for tuition. Chief Yates informed that DPD is now doing testing 3 times a year. Waivers are paid for the first test. Currently, 5 positions can retire and others move in and out going to other agencies, so they keep hiring open. IDOC are recruiting for security and non-security positions.
 - IX. Items from the Floor: Members expressed interest in coming to speak with the students at DACC. Rickey will need to coordinate with the members to arrange this for the students.

Dr. Bridges opened a discussion regarding MILO. Is it valuable? Should the college continue to support its acquisition? Chief Yates explained the benefits and drawbacks of using MILO or VR. It's only good if used as a supplement and to support all other teaching. It should be used to enhance curriculum that is already being taught in de-escalation, diversity, and mental health. Rickey concurred that it is used for scenario training from 'how to talk to someone' all the way to deadly force training.

- X. Next Scheduled Meeting: Spring 2025