



Western Association of Criminal Justice

Friday, October 11

8:30am **MORNING REFRESHMENTS** **Silver Baron E**

Sponsored by: University of Wyoming: Criminal Justice and Sociology

9:00am – 10:00am **EVENT # 14** **Silver Baron E**

PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Attitudinal Research: CJ Reform, Job Satisfaction, and Judges' Confidence in the Law

Chair: Mia Holbrook, University of Nevada, Reno

Attitudes and Community Driven Reform

Mia Holbrook, University of Nevada, Reno

Research regarding the implications of student attitudes towards reform policies within the criminal justice program are significant because they are set to represent the future of the country and the criminal justice system. This study will investigate how people perceive and understand criminal justice reform. Through the act of understanding public attitudes, and more specifically student attitudes, we can begin to assess and start blueprinting strategies for reformation. Additionally, through the incorporation of student attitudes, there is the additional advantage of creating community-driven policies that help to establish public trust in the criminal justice system.

Work Family Conflict and Job Satisfaction of Community Corrections Agents

Sara Fiegl, University of Nevada, Reno

Matt Leone, University of Nevada, Reno

Eric Lambert, Indiana University Northwest

Monica Solinas-Saunders, Indiana University Northwest

Stacy Haynes, Mississippi State University

David May, Mississippi State University

Community corrections employees have a great deal of contact with justice system involved individuals, yet they are often ignored by researchers. Work-Family Conflict (WFC) is a challenge for justice professionals, and the negative impact of WFC on job satisfaction for institutional corrections employees is known. Few studies exist which compare job satisfaction to WFC for community corrections officers and staff. This study explores the impact of WFC on job satisfaction through a survey of 227 community corrections employees in a Western state. Findings suggest that overall WFC affects job satisfaction, but employee status changes how job satisfaction is affected.



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Survey Investigating Judges' Confidence in Their Understanding of Hate Crime Laws

Teyah Gianneta, University of Nevada, Reno

Katie Cunius, University of Nevada, Reno

Monica Miller, University of Nevada, Reno

Hate crimes are bias motivated crimes committed against a victim because of their race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or ethnicity. However, protected groups and punishments for hate crimes vary. Therefore, judges' confidence in their knowledge of hate crime laws might vary. This study used secondary data investigating 212 judges' confidence in their knowledge of hate crime laws. Most judges stated they were somewhat confident in their knowledge of hate crime laws. Forty judges responded to the open-ended question which was coded into the following major themes: cannot be coded, judge type, relevance to the judge and jurisdiction, rationalization, and issues/recommendation. Judges commonly explained they did not preside over hate crime cases, consulted with their colleagues, or stated the crime received another charge. Judges might have limited hate crime law knowledge to reduce their cognitive load. However, judges stated they referred to other professionals or the law to rationalize their decisions, instead of using stereotypes in their cognitive toolbox—reducing the likelihood of biases affecting their decision. These findings can help create policies and practices to ensure judges who preside over hate crime cases have adequate knowledge of their jurisdiction's laws to render law-based decisions.

10:10am-11:10am

EVENT # 15

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PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Partnerships in Criminal Justice

Chair: Alexis Harper, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice

The Public Safety Institute and Academic-Practitioner Partnerships in Memphis

Amaia Iratzoqui, University of Memphis, Public Safety Institute

For practitioners, the creation of strong and meaningful partnerships with academics is essential for the creation of "best practices", and for academics, the opportunity to direct program development and implementation can be beneficial for later program evaluation. The Public Safety Institute is a nonprofit research center housed at the University of Memphis which connects faculty and practitioners in Memphis and Shelby County on funding and research opportunities to drive academic-practitioner partnerships, centered around program development, evaluation, or applied research on issues related to public safety. This presentation reviews some examples of local partnerships, project successes, and goals for future expansion.



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Colorado Trusted Interoperability Platform (CTIP) Development and Deployment

Alexis Harper, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice

The Colorado Trusted Interoperability Platform (CTIP) is being developed to improve health and safety outcomes and enhanced record accuracy. CTIP provides the capacity for secure data sharing between jails and other criminal justice partners in the State of Colorado. The lack of exchange of information between and across justice entities and community providers creates delays in services that pose serious health and safety risks for individuals and justice professionals. This new information exchange opportunity hopes to disrupt cycles of justice involvement, and promote a continuum of care, and more efficient and effective processes and use of resources.

11:20am-12:00pm

EVENT # 16

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PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Contemporary Issues in Corrections

Chair: Chandrika Kelso, National University

Climatology and Responsibility: Benefits of Creating Earth Friendly Correctional Landscape

Chandrika Kelso, National University

Anthropocentrism is explained as an ethical framework that bestows on humans the moral standing, and obligations to fellow humans and our environment. As society progresses and advances, climate change continues to be an on-going discussion topic, however, no discussion on climate change or environment is complete without including our confined population. This paper does a deep dive into the environmental and inmate mental health impacts of prison design, and architecture, the positive outcomes of reducing the carbon footprint of prisons and also the on-going changes being implemented by Bureau of Prisons to achieve inmate, community and earth friendly climate goals.

Restorative Justice in the U.S. Correctional System: Proposing an Integrated Model

Josephine Smith, Western Oregon University

High recidivism rates and harsh prison conditions in the United States led to an interest in improving incarceration outcomes. As incarceration will continue to be utilized within the U.S., restorative justice has been suggested as a possible solution. This study serves to provide an updated review of the literature on restorative justice within correctional facilities, to offer effective recommendations for the United States. This professional paper examined 177 secondary sources, extracting common themes and findings to guide the structure of this study and its recommendations. The findings indicate that further integrating restorative justice within correctional facilities will, at the least, have no impact on incarceration outcomes. The literature examined suggests that creating a centralized system with a planning committee, focusing on



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evidence-based programming and increasing the availability of programming to adult and serious offenders will improve outcomes for victims, offenders, and the broader correctional system.

12:00pm

CLOSING REMARKS

Silver Baron E

Shaun Gann, 2023-2024 WACJ President