



**COLLEGE OF CRIMINOLOGY  
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

*Research Brought to Life.*

# **Building Effective Partnerships Between Researchers and Practitioners**

**Thomas Blomberg  
George Pesta  
William Bales**

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# **Presentation Outline**

**I. Introduction to Researcher & Practitioner Partnerships**

**II. FSU & “Research Brought to Life”**

**III. FSU’s Experience with 2 NIJ Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships**

**IV. FSU’s Experience with Law Enforcement Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships**

**V. FSU’s Online Bachelors and Masters degrees Distance Learning Opportunities for Law Enforcement**

- 1. Specific Distance Learning Funding Scholarships for Law Enforcement Officers**

**VI. Recommendations for Building Effective Researcher & Practitioner Partnerships for Florida Police Chiefs**

**VII. Summary and Conclusion**



# **I – Research & Practitioner Partnerships**

## **◆ Development of Criminology as an Academic Discipline**

- **It is helpful to note, that in its disciplinary beginnings, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Criminology was focused upon informing public policy**
- **For example, at the Chicago School, where academic criminology began, the focus was to provide evidence to inform policies that could effectively confront the believed to be criminogenic features of Chicago slums thereby reducing crime**
- **However, during most of the subsequent 20<sup>th</sup> Century, criminology became less focused upon policy and more focused upon establishing itself as a recognized scientific discipline through the discovery and validation of causal explanations of crime**



# **I – Researcher & Practitioner Partnerships**

## **◆ Development of Criminology as an Academic Discipline**

- **Throughout much of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, it was generally assumed that the criminal justice system operated according to its formally prescribed goals and practices with “disinterested professionalism” and was therefore, not subject to sustained study or policy reform initiatives other than frequent calls for additional personnel and/or operating budgets**
- **Over the past decade, stimulated by growing concern for increased public safety and cost-effectiveness, evidence-based criminal justice policies and practices have become broadly recognized as fundamental and necessary by policymakers, practitioners and the public**
- **This broadly based recognition has resulted in a series of researcher & practitioner partnerships**



## **II – FSU’s College of Criminology and Criminal Justice “Research Brought to Life”**

- ◆ **Since 2003, the College has embraced the tagline of “research brought to life”**
- ◆ **Underlying the tagline is the assumption that our research and educational functions ultimately should be judged by the effect to which our work reduces the pain and suffering of crime**
- ◆ **A major component of the College is the Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research**
- ◆ **To date, the Center has conducted numerous research and policy partnerships at the local, state and federal levels**



## **III – Examples of FSU’s Experience with 2 National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Funded Researcher & Practitioner Partnerships**

### **Florida Department of Corrections (DOC)**

- ◆ **With \$600,000 of NIJ funding, FSU worked with DOC to develop a cohort of over 250,000 inmates who were released from 2004 to 2011**
  - **FSU then tracked these inmate releases from 1-5 years to determine employment and recidivism outcomes**
  
- ◆ **Using this large cohort/dataset, FSU is completing three specific research and policy /practitioner projects**
  1. **Conducting a Randomized Trial of prison-based substance abuse treatment to determine the effect on post-release employment and recidivism**
  2. **Determining the effect of work-release programs on employment and recidivism**
  3. **Determining the effect of post-release supervision on employment and recidivism**
  
- ◆ **Importantly, each of these 3 research efforts have direct policy and practice implications which could involve significant legislative action and DOC policy and practice changes aimed at increased public safety and cost-effectiveness**



## **III – FSU’s Experience with 2 National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Funded Researcher & Practitioner Partnerships**

### **Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)**

♦ **FSU received \$500,000 from NIJ to work with DJJ to assess 3 currently relevant delinquency policy and practice questions**

- 1. Determine the effectiveness of “Civil Citation” as an alternative to arrest among youth apprehend by law enforcement**
- 2. Determine the effects of “Family Visitation” of incarcerated youth upon recidivism outcomes**
- 3. Determine what individual and school level factors and characteristics contribute to schools referring youth to the juvenile justice system**

♦ **Again, as in the case with the DOC partnership, the 3 research projects FSU is conducting with DJJ have direct policy and practice implications related to increased public safety and cost-effectiveness as related to Civil Citation, visitation during incarceration, and school referrals to DJJ**



## **IV – FSU’s Experience with Law Enforcement Researcher & Practitioner Partnerships**

### **Palm Beach Projects Funded through National Institute of Justice, Office of Violence against Women and Palm Beach County**

**1. Weed & Seed evaluation**

**2. Evaluation of the Palm Beach County Jail’s inmate health care system**

**3. Youth Violence Reduction project**

**4. Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Demonstration Initiative**

**◆ Each of these projects resulted in the implementation of specific policies and practices and in the case of the Weed & Seed and the Youth Violence Reduction projects included joint presentations to the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission for a request for continuation funding that was granted thereby resulting in ongoing program operations**





## **IV – FSU’s Experience with Law Enforcement Researcher & Practitioner Partnerships**

### **Broward Projects funded by the Broward County Sheriff’s Office**

**1. Broward County Jail Population Trends and Forecast**

**2. Validation of the COMPAS Risk Assessment Classification Instrument to reduce reliance upon jail incarceration**

**3. Cost-Benefit Analysis of Alternatives to Jail to versus New Jail Construction**

**♦ Very importantly, before FSU conducted these 3 studies, Broward County was close to signing a contract to construct 3 new jails at an estimated construction cost of \$70 million per 1,000 bed jail with an additional annual operating cost of 35 million per year for each of the 3 new jails**

**♦ Based upon the above FSU studies and presentations, Broward County chose not to build the 3 new jails and, instead, expand its jail alternatives thereby saving as much as \$315 million**



## **V – FSU’s Distance Learning Program**

- ◆ **Nationally recognized Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the # 1 ranked program for faculty research (*Journal of Criminal Justice Education, 2011*)**
- ◆ **All classes taught by nationally known professors in the college who are leaders in the field**
- ◆ **No Campus Visits Required – 100% Online Program**
- ◆ **No out-of-state tuition**
- ◆ **Most competitive online tuition rates among top ranked Criminology and Criminal Justice Programs**
- ◆ **You receive the same diploma as on-campus criminology students**
- ◆ **FSU’s undergraduate Distance Learning Program in Criminology was ranked this year as #2 out of the top 25 after just one year of operations**



## **V – FSU’s Relgalf Scholarship**

- ◆ **Created by the Relgalf Charitable Foundation to increase the resources for small U.S. police departments**
- ◆ **Supports undergraduate students who will serve in small police departments upon graduation**
- ◆ **First preference is given to current law enforcement officers willing to serve following graduation in small police departments namely fewer than 21 sworn officers**
- ◆ **Second preference is given to students who will become police officers**
- ◆ **Scholarship pays full-tuition and living expenses for four years**
- ◆ **The scholarship is also available for online coursework that leads to a BA degree**



## **VI – Recommendations for Building Effective Researcher & Practitioner Partnerships for Florida Police Chiefs**

- 1. Develop a Strategic Plan for your Department with major goals and timelines**
- 2. Identify and prioritize policy/practice areas where research and/or evaluation could be useful in relation to your Strategic Plan's goals**
- 3. Initiate contact with appropriate Criminology or other University College/ Department that could assist you in addressing your policy/practice research and/or evaluation needs**
- 4. Collaborate with the interested research unit upon the development of a partnership plan**
  - Including required funding and strategies for acquiring funding. This may include partnering with multiple police departments that share research and policy needs**



## **VI – Recommendations for Establishing Effective Researcher & Practitioner Partnerships for Florida Police Chiefs**

### **The Partnership Plan**

- ◆ **The development of a research/evaluation plan for your policy department with goals and timelines**
- ◆ **Identification of policy/practice research/evaluation area(s) and specific questions that need to be answered**
- ◆ **Jointly determine the scope of work, methods, timelines and funding for completing the research/evaluation areas**
- ◆ **Develop a dissemination plan and partnership actions that will result in the utilization of the research/evaluation findings. These actions could include collaborative presentation of the findings and policy/practice recommendations to the City Commission or other appropriate audiences**



## **VII – Summary & Conclusion**

◆ **Effective research & practitioner partnerships involve reciprocation by providing direct assistance to police departments and simultaneously elevating the involved research units with research opportunities, publications and policy accomplishments and, most importantly, assist in increasing public safety and cost-effectiveness**

**Please contact the Florida State University  
College of Criminology and Criminal Justice  
and/or go to our website at  
[www.criminology.fsu.edu](http://www.criminology.fsu.edu)  
to see a listing of our research and policy/  
practice expertise and experience**