A Criminal Justice League of Their Own

Higher Learning has taken on a new meaning for criminal justice-related programs at universities and colleges throughout Illinois. There have been added emphasis on, and new degree programs for, Homeland Security, Cybercrime and crime scene investigations, among many others. The academic world is also breaking ground in child abuse and police leadership, and more and more graduates are ascending to top positions in law enforcement fields. Read all about it in the Illinois Cops 2014 Education Guide which is a tribute to the grade-A, first-class teaching and learning taking place in criminal justice education.

Get the criminal justice ‘experience’

BY RICHARD SCHAKE AND DANNY MCGUIRE

Leonardo da Vinci said it best when he stated, “Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears and never regrets.” Supporting this are people from a variety of occupations, particularly Criminal Justice professionals, stating their biggest regret was not gaining an advanced education. If you have considered returning to school and are interested in a career in law enforcement, courts or corrections systems, or to work in related private industries, National Louis University offers a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice that provides real-world training and flexible schedules for working adults.

NLU’s Bachelor’s in Criminal Justice has two major degree concentrations: Criminal Justice Administration focuses on managing organizations and Forensic Social Justice focuses on the psychology of criminality and its applications. The program prepares students to work in fields addressing the effects of criminality on individuals, communities and society.

At National Louis, Criminal Justice (CJ) students are exposed to “experiential training” by using tools and resources in our CJ Lab. These include a fully functional Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), a comparison microscope and a Meggitt Firearms Training System (FTS) machine. In addition, students enjoy a diverse faculty made up current and former field practitioners that can apply real-world experiences to systems, theories and tools used in our curriculum.

NLU’s mission is to provide access to education, and to that end, works to provide adult students with the opportunity to seek a degree, both through financial and academic support. It was Benjamin Franklin who so eloquently said, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

While education is an investment of time and money, the payoff will reap great benefits.

Many Criminal Justice practitioners, such as police officers, deputies, corrections officers and other criminal justice personnel feel they do not have the time or financial means to go back to school” in today’s fast-paced society. Family obligations, work responsibilities and other commitments make the practitioner feel as if continuing their education is far out of reach. With this in mind, National Louis CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

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