

NORTH CAROLINA CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“CRIMINAL JUSTICE: EDUCATION, POLICY AND PRACTICE”

FEBRUARY 6-8, 2020



HOMWOOD SUITES AT CRABTREE VALLEY
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

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8:00 a.m. Registrations opens (table outside of Winston/Barclay rooms)

7:00 - 8:50 a.m. Continental breakfast (in lobby)

Welcoming Remarks by Matt Robinson, President

9:15 – 9:20 am

Break Time: Presenters, please use the break time prior to your session to load powerpoint presentations onto the computer.

Panel Chairs: Please introduce each paper on the panel, monitor presenters for time limits to ensure equitable presentation time, and facilitate Q & A at the end of the panel as time allows. Thanks!

Panel 1: Issues in Policing

9:20 – 10:00 am

Panel Chair: Tasha Youstin, Western Carolina University

Paper 1: Exploring Student Perceptions of Campus Police Duties and Performance

William Towery & Tasha Youstin, Western Carolina University

The purpose of this paper was to explore potential variations in students' perceptions toward campus police roles and behaviors as compared with local and state law enforcement (LSLE). This study used a web-based survey to solicit responses from (n=995) students. Results showed that students perceived traditional policing roles of higher import to LSES while rating campus specific roles higher for campus police, yet rank order of roles revealed remarkable similarities between policing agencies. Additionally, campus police were perceived more favorably in terms of their behavior, with similar characteristics predicting perceptions of campus police and LSLE. Interactions with LSLE significantly affected perceptions of campus police behavior and vice versa. Results offer support for similarities and differences in perceptions of campus police versus LSLE. This study provides quantitative analysis of a large sample to address role expectations and behavioral perceptions of campus police. Though extensive research has explored policing roles, legitimacy and factors related to perceptions of police, campus police in particular have been largely overlooked. Limited research on the topic suggests confusion over role expectation and questionable legitimacy of campus police, illustrating a need for further research. This study aims to address that need.

Paper 2: Measuring K9 Effectiveness in Law Enforcement: An Identified Gap in Literature

Patrick Harris, Fayetteville State University

The effectiveness of the law enforcement K9 has been described and measured by a limited number of studies since K9's became widely used in the United States beginning in the 1970's (Mesloh, 2006). The effectiveness of the dog to perform its assigned task of finding drugs, explosives, humans, or other items is undisputed, and the Supreme Court has ruled in favor of K9 procured evidence multiple times (Wallentine, 2019). However, a lack of quantifiable data exists to assess the effectiveness of K9's on a police department or other law-enforcement agency. This presentation identifies these gaps as well as proposes a study to collect both qualitative and quantitative data.

Break

10:00 – 10:05 am

Panel 2: Addressing the Needs within the CJ System

10:05–11:05 am

Panel Chair: Latoya Burt, Coastal Carolina University

Paper 1: Substance Use Disorder and Corrections: Informed Management

Bianca Harris, NC Department of Public Safety

As the world recognizes the need to address the opioid epidemic and overall substance abuse, law enforcement entities with custodial care responsibilities must also address this issue. Therefore, substance abuse/substance use disorder treatment within confinement must become a priority of programming needs, re-entry needs and individual continuity of care needs. As priorities within the confinement facilities shifts towards an informed and tailor-made treatment model, the proven impact of Substance use disorder treatment on recidivism can be more significant.

Paper 2: Reentry Program Experiences of Male, African American Ex-Offenders

Latoya Burt, Coastal Carolina University

The problem addressed in this study was a lack of knowledge of African American male ex-offender's experiences in reentry programs regarding their likelihood to recidivate within one year. This study analyzed the lived experiences and perceptions of African American male ex-offender participants in a reentry program. The purpose was to explore the perceptions of African American male ex-offenders in a North Carolina reentry program, as to whether participating in a reentry program impacted their likelihood of recidivating. This study provided original contribution to the reentry literature creating new knowledge of the perceptions African American male ex-offenders have about participating in a reentry program.

Paper 3: First Step, Year One

Marlana Hancock, Randolph Community College

As its name implies, The First Step Act is just that, the first step in promoting criminal justice reform, particularly focusing on the transformation of federal corrections reentry and recidivism reduction. Since its passage in December of 2018, a risk and needs assessment plan has granted thousands retroactive sentence reductions including elderly home confinement, compassionate reductions, and compassionate releases. This presentation is designed to both inform and assess the first year effects of the First Step Act, and to open discussion on where we as a society and system go from here.

Break

11:05 – 11:10 am

Panel 3: Mental Health and Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System

11:10 – 12:00 pm

Panel Chair: Art Beeler, NC Central University

Paper 1: Exploring Mental Health Resources Available to Rural Police

Annalyssa Soonah & Tasha Youstin, Western Carolina University

The importance of dialog about and research regarding the mental health of police officers has been highlighted by the tragically high rate of police officer suicide. While awareness regarding this crucial issue has been growing, it is unclear if police officers are being given access to, and encouraged to utilize

mental health resources. This presentation reviews what we know about the research on police officers and mental health issues, as well as the resources available to officers today, with a highlight on officers in rural areas.

Paper 2: Should we be teaching CJ students about the Criminalization of the Mentally Ill

Art Beeler, NC Central University

Since 1955, the number of mental health treatment beds has decreased from approximately 550,000 to less than 20,000 in this county while at the same time the US population has increased from 171M to 329M. Where has this population of persons with mental illness gone? The data suggests large numbers of this population have become residents of prisons and jails. Before they trans-institutionalize, to prisons and jails, police and sheriff departments often become involved in arresting those mentally ill persons who are marginalized and do not have resources for treatment. Currently, in more than 44 states, prisons and jails house more persons with mental illness than do state mental health resources. While there have been some advances to place this population in treatment than confinement, it remains common for criminal justice professionals from police, institutional corrections and community corrections to manage and supervise these persons. The question: what should we be teaching our criminal justice students about the criminalization of the mentally ill?

BREAK FOR LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Within walking distance you can find San Marcos Mexican Restaurant directly next door, or several options at the mall including The Cheesecake Factory, Panera Bread, Brio, Crabtree Ale House, Season's 52, a large food court for faster options, and many more!

Roundtable 1:

1:30 – 2:15 pm

“A Discussion on the UNC Initiative to Award Academic Credit for Military Training and Service”

Facilitator:

Jeff Holcomb, Appalachian State University

The UNC System Office, in response to NC Senate Bill 761, is developing a process for awarding academic credit for military training. The initiative requires the UNC Board of Governors and the State Board of Community Colleges to work together both to develop a plan for awarding military credit and to establish the processes for military students to transfer this credit between UNC institutions and NCCCs. Criminal Justice has been identified by the UNC System as one of the majors to undergo this evaluation process. Discussion will describe the rationale and goals of the initiative, anticipated process, and possible concerns and issues yet to be resolved.

Break

2:15 – 2:20 pm

Panel 4: Focusing on Specific Crimes and the Crime Rate

2:20 – 3:20 pm

Panel Chair: Kris Macomber, Meredith College

Paper 1: Raleigh Crime Rate and Gentrification

Haley Whitfield, Meredith College

Raleigh has been silently experiencing gentrification of many of the districts. Gentrification pushes out the lower class people and is supposed to help lower the crime rate of the area. Using GIS mapping software to map and compare the crime rates over several years and indicators of gentrification (income level, housing occupancy, race, education attainment, poverty), it shows that the crime rate has shifted once gentrification of the area has.

Paper 2: Addressing Sexual Violence Outside the Co-Ed Context

Kris Macomber, Meredith College

This presentation will discuss the challenges of implementing sexual violence prevention and response work on women's college campuses. Drawing from focus group data with students, faculty, and staff on a women's college campus, the struggle to generate "buy-in" on these kinds of campuses is examined. Although co-ed campuses must also work against a larger culture of silence around sexual violence, this cultural context is heightened on women's campuses. Three key reasons for this additional barrier are identified: 1) without male-identified students on campus, there is widespread reluctance to identify sexual violence as a pressing problem impacting women on campus; 2) the absence of a visible student-activist culture that addresses sexual violence, which is often seen on co-ed campuses; and 3) lack of institutional infrastructure to support sexual violence prevention and response. Additionally, the steps we have taken on our campus to increase campus buy-in by highlighting our practitioner-faculty-administrator approach will be described, and the ways in which the recent rollback of Title IX provisions might add to the barriers already experienced on women's college campuses will be considered.

Paper 3: The Haqqani Network: Success in the Shadows

Shelby Davis, UNC Charlotte

The catastrophic events of September 11, 2001 and the beheading of James Foley in 2014 demonstrated the unprecedented brutality of the terrorist organizations Al Qaeda and the Islamic State. Consequently, these became household names and the basis of American nightmares. However, despite their notoriety, they are neither the most lethal nor the most strategically capable of extremist organizations, whereas one group stands out from them all. The Haqqani Network is the most dangerous and pertinent threat to Middle East and South Asian security and stability due to their evolution into a sustainable terrorist organization that is state sponsored by Pakistan and directly impacting United States interests in the region.

BREAK

3:20 – 3:25 pm

Roundtable 2:**3:25 – 4:10 pm**

“Current Criminal Justice Issues in North Carolina ”

Facilitator:

Kenneth Mullen, Appalachian State University

This is a discussion of legal and educational issues in the state, and anyone is welcome to attend and participate.

Break**4:10 – 4:15 pm**

Panel 5: Issues of Race in Criminal Justice**4:15 – 5:35 pm**

Panel Chair: Zahra Shekarkhar, Fayetteville State University

Paper 1: “Do you know how fast you were going?”: Public Perceptions of Speeding and Traffic by Race, Age and Gender

Lori Brown, Meredith College

Public Perceptions about speeding and traffic vary by age and gender. Assumptions about acceptable speeding by police, and the use of horns, hands or words to respond to others in traffic vary as well. This study asked 570 drivers in North Carolina to answer questions about their perceptions in how they respond to traffic and driving. Differences in driver’s assumptions about how much over the speed limit police allow before giving tickets varied by age and race. Responses to driver’s frustration about incidents with others in traffic varied by race, age and gender.

Paper 2: Racial Disparities in School Suspensions: Through the Lens of the Liberation Hypothesis

Lori Guevara, Zahra Shekarkhar & Karen McElrath, Fayetteville State University

This study explores racial disparities in school suspensions using the liberation hypothesis. The liberation hypothesis proposes that in non-serious offenses, decision-makers are “liberated” to use their discretion which results in harsher outcomes for racial minorities. This study focused on five behavioral offenses including: fighting, disrespect, disruption, insubordination, and skipping/tardy. Using a sample of over 150,000 public school students from the 2014-2015 academic year, the multivariate analysis show general support for the hypothesis. Overall, Black and Other racial minority students were significantly more likely than White students to receive out-of-school and in-school suspension.

Paper 3: Exploring Integration of Social Justice Pedagogy: Perceptions From A Justice Studies Curriculum

Denise Nation & Sheldon Smith, Winston-Salem State University

The importance of including social justice in many degree curriculum across various majors has become an important goal of many universities globally. It could be argued that this endeavor is particularly important in Justice Studies/Criminal Justice curriculum. This study analyzed perceptions of college students enrolled in Justice Studies courses around social justice and social justice related activities. Students were given a presurvey at week 3 in the semester and were exposed to several social justice

related activities throughout the semester and given a post survey in week 14. The results and implications of these analyses are presented and discussed.

Paper 4: The Color of Justice: An Enduring Problem in the US and South Africa

Matthew Robinson, Appalachian State University

In this paper, the author outlines how color (i.e., race) has impacted the practice of criminal justice in the US (with a special focus on the southern US) and the Republic of South Africa. The author illustrates similarities and differences between the two countries in terms of how color has influenced the law, policing, courts, and corrections. A special emphasis is placed on the laws and institutions used to first discriminate but ultimately liberate people of color over the passage of time.

Conference Adjourned for the Day! Explore Raleigh!

Free hors d'oeuvres and drinks this evening (for hotel guests only, next to lobby)

8:00 am Registrations opens (table outside of Winston/Barclay rooms)

7:00 - 8:50 am Continental breakfast (in lobby)

Panel 6: Issues in Corrections**9:00 – 10:20 am**

Panel Chair: Barbara H. Zaitzow, Appalachian State University

Paper 1: Moving Beyond the War on Drugs

Samantha Kramer & Barbara H. Zaitzow, Appalachian State University

As a result of changes in legislative responses to the “war on drugs,” changing patterns of drug use, and judicial decision making, the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world (Sentencing Project, 2017). With over 2 million individuals locked away in the nation’s jails and prisons, the popularity of imprisonment as a sanctioning tool has significant implications for corrections, the incarcerated and their loved ones, and our communities. In this paper, we argue for the need to reform current policies and programs in order to help people while reducing reliance on the ineffective addiction to punishment.

Paper 2: The Care Could Kill Ya: Health Care Needs of Women Prisoners

Hayley Lynch & Barbara H. Zaitzow, Appalachian State University

Of the 2 million people incarcerated in the United States, over 200,000 are female inmates (Kajstura, 2019). A by-product of the recent “confinement era” within criminal justice is the influx of ill and generally unhealthy female offenders that are in the nation’s correctional institutions. As women in prison have different treatment needs and problems than their male counterparts, there is a need for gender-appropriate programs. This paper highlights the need for a correctional policy to address the health care needs of imprisoned women in the United States.

Paper 3: Everybody is Doing the Time: Children of Incarcerated Parents

Ruby Boisclair & Barbara H. Zaitzow, Appalachian State University

Among the numerous casualties of the “war on drugs” have been the children and family members of the imprisoned. An estimated 5 million children in the United States have a parent who is currently incarcerated or a parent who has been incarcerated over the course of their childhood (Murphey & Cooper, 2015). It is clear that imprisonment disrupts positive, nurturing relationships between many parents and their children. The purpose of this paper is to explore the obstacles that children of incarcerated parents grapple with and to provide recommendations to foster positive family relationships for both the prisoner(s) and their children.

Paper 4: A Call to Action for Prison Education Reform

Celeste Escareno & Barbara H. Zaitzow, Appalachian State University

Whether funded through grants or established through partnerships with correctional institutions that are willing to work with colleges/universities to meet prisoner needs, the positive impact of these efforts have been noted in research and the experiences shared by participants. Prison education programs have significant benefits and positive outcomes for the prison environment, incarcerated students, non-prisoner students and teachers, inmates’ families and, hence, their communities. This paper will discuss the need to

maintain and improve upon established prison education programs as well as establish inmate education and training programs where they do not currently exist.

BREAK

10:20 – 10:30 am

Panel 7: Special Concerns with Emergency and Disaster Management

10:30 – 11:10 am

Panel Chair: Lisa Briggs, Western Carolina University

Paper 1: Language Matters?

Josh Geiger & Lisa Briggs, Western Carolina University

Volunteerism is important in the response and recovery of a community affected by disaster. There are many different reasons that explain variation in rates of volunteerism throughout the country. One consideration is centered around language and cultural factors. Specifically, the size of the non-English speaking population, the percentage of citizens where English is the secondary language, the non-English resources available in a community, and even the rate of non-documented workers needs to be considered. There is also the problem of their being county and statewide variation among resources available to non-English speaking populations in how to prepare and cope when disasters occur.

Paper 2: A Better Understanding: Children on the Spectrum as it Relates to Missing Persons

Josh Adcock, Josh Geiger, Griffin Tracy & Lisa Briggs, Western Carolina University

Children on the spectrum pose unique perspectives to be considered in the field of Emergency and Disaster Management and Law Enforcement. This paper will first address literature in behavioral science that will help explain different diagnosis and behaviors associated with each. The second part will address misconceptions and stigma of individuals on the spectrum which directly connects to the need for more appropriate training for law enforcement and emergency response professionals. The last part will address the specific challenges in the recovery of those with a variety of behavioral and social disorders.

Break

11:10 – 11:15 am

Panel 8: Pretrial Issues and Prosecution

11:15 – 12:15 pm

Panel Chair: Andy Hansen, Western Carolina University

Paper 1: Characteristics of Federal Criminal Water Pollution Prosecutions

Dakota Little & Andy Hansen, Western Carolina University

Federal water prosecutions began after implementation of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act (CWA). Characteristics of criminal CWA cases from North Carolina were presented at the 2018 meeting of the NCCJA. Our presentation expands upon this earlier work by analyzing all 763 criminal CWA cases in the United States from 1982 to 2019. Specific topics include when cases were settled, where they occurred, types of pollutants and industries involved, and the nature of criminal sentences.

Paper 2: Criminal Citations and the Likelihood of Pretrial Failure

Jamie Vaske, Western Carolina University

Two rural jurisdictions undertook a series of pretrial reforms starting January 1st, 2019. Law enforcement agencies within the jurisdictions committed to expanding their use of criminal citations in lieu of arrest for misdemeanor offenses. The current presentation will examine whether: (1) law enforcement expanded their use of citations for traffic and non-traffic criminal misdemeanors in 2019, and (2) whether misdemeanor defendants who were given a citation were more likely to fail to appear or incur a new criminal charge during the pretrial period than defendants who were arrested or issued a warrant.

Paper 3: The Association Between Non-Financial Bond Conditions and Pretrial Outcomes

Meagan Pittman and Brittany Smith, Western Carolina University

The 30B Judicial District revised their decision-making framework for conditions of release beginning in January 1st, 2019. The framework formalized the integration of individual factors and North Carolina General Statute 15A-534(b) into the decision to impose bond conditions. This presentation will review: (1) the level of deviations from the framework; (2) whether there were changes in the conditions of release from 2018 to 2019; (3) whether non-appearance rates differed between 2018 and 2019 for defendants on the District Court calendars; and (4) whether defendants who were released on a non-financial condition were more likely to fail to appear than defendants released on a financial condition.

Break for Lunch Set Up

12:15 – 12:30pm

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Awards Luncheon & General Business Meeting
(Included in price of conference registration for attendees)
Award Announcements and General Business Meeting will begin at 1pm

Members and Non-Member Attendees: Are you loving the NCCJA Conference and wanting to make the 2021 conference even better?? Now is your chance to join the board of NCCJA. There will be an election to fill open positions during the General Business Meeting. Self-nominations are welcome!! You can speak to any current board member if you would like to know more about being a board member, or if you are feeling a little shy and would like someone to nominate you. There are many ways to get involved!

Presidential Plenary
Matthew Robinson
With Ashley Tauscher
Appalachian State University
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm

NCCJA: Who Are We, Where Did We Come From?

This plenary examines the history of the North Carolina Criminal Justice Association, from its founding in 1971 to the present day. A review of historical documents and early writings illustrates where and how the group emerged, and an analysis of conference proceedings since the format of the conference changed in the past decade reveals who we are now. Finally, a discussion of the likely future of this organization.

BREAK

2:45 – 2:50pm

Workshop:

2:50 – 4:10 pm

Melissa Radcliff, Program Director
Our Children's Place of Coastal Horizons Center

Making Them Visible: Recognizing, Supporting, and Advocating
for Children of Incarcerated and Returning Parents

On any given day, there are an estimated 2.7 million children in the US with at least one incarcerated parent (28,000+ in NC). More than 5 million children (179,000 in NC) have experienced parental incarceration at some point in their lives. This workshop will focus on what we know about the children and the impact of parental incarceration, strategies to serve them, current gaps in resources and data

collection, and ways to better meet their needs. Participants will be encouraged to take what they learn back to their own professional settings, continue the conversation, and determine next steps.

Break

4:10 – 4:15 pm

Thematic Panel

4:15 – 5:30 pm

“Critical Thinking and Technology Utilization: Essential Skills for Student Success in College”

Facilitator:

Will Pizzo, *Gulliford College*

Panelists:

Darl H. Champion, *Methodist University*

Marlana Hancock, *Randolph Community College*

This panel will discuss several essential skills for student success at both the undergraduate and graduate level. The focus will be on two skills: critical thinking and use of technology. Although focused on student success skills, the topics discussed have relevance for instructors in course and instructional preparation. After brief presentations from panel members, the panel will entertain questions from the audience. Additional topics may be discussed during the question and answer period.

Conference Adjourned for the Day! Explore Raleigh!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020

WINSTON/BARCLAY

7:00 - 8:50 a.m.

Continental breakfast (in lobby)

Final board meeting—All board members

9:30am

Conference adjourned

Thank you for attending and participating in this year's conference.

We look forward to seeing you next year for our 2021 conference where we will be celebrating 50 years of the NCCJA!!!!