



Behind the Badge

E-News from the Law Enforcement Foundation

Dear LEF Supporter,

Welcome to the Law Enforcement Foundation's June e-newsletter – where we honor our supporters and share news about our executive training programs.

Thank you to our loyal supporters!

We'd like to extend our sincere appreciation to the following donors for their recent support of LEF:

Kroger Community Rewards, \$125.19

The Lehner Family Foundation, \$1,000

Robert S. & Sylvia K. Reitman Family Philanthropic Fund, \$100

My S.T.E.P. Experience

By Det. Kevin Flaharty, City of Powell Police Department

In 2009, I approached my administration and requested to attend the Supervisor Training and Education Program (S.T.E.P.). Though not a supervisor, I felt that S.T.E.P. would challenge my leadership potential and provide an opportunity to explore the supervisory component within law enforcement. I feel it did just that.

S.T.E.P. facilitated a positive learning environment and identified those traits which are exemplified by leaders not only in law enforcement but in society as a whole. Furthermore, the course gave me the chance to experience and appreciate all roles within the profession, both supervisory and subordinate. I acquired a unique perspective I would likely not have developed otherwise. The ability to examine a problem from the viewpoint of both the supervisor and the subordinate has since proven invaluable in my daily duties.

While in class, I was encouraged to accept a leadership role which required me to problem-solve both individually and collaboratively with my fellow students, and this has made a material difference in my day-to-day approach to investigations. When presented with difficult decisions, the leadership lessons I learned in S.T.E.P. remind me of the impact my actions have on myself and my agency and, by extension, my community. Moreover, through my S.T.E.P. experience I developed contacts from all four corners of the State, many of whom I have called upon for assistance with my day-to-day investigations.

Since graduating S.T.E.P., I have continued to employ lessons learned and to seek additional challenges within the profession. I have begun working closely with the Central Ohio Child Abduction Response Team (C.O.C.A.R.T.) as the team works to develop the most efficient and effective response plan for child abduction cases. My involvement with C.O.C.A.R.T. has afforded me the opportunity to assist investigators from all around Ohio as they respond to high-profile abduction cases. This pursuit has proven to be labor intensive yet very rewarding.

I found S.T.E.P. to be an enlightening experience which had and continues to have a constructive impact on my agency and my profession. I recommend it for law enforcement officers who seek to develop their leadership skills and deepen their knowledge of law enforcement administration.



Det. Kevin Flaharty (far right) receives his STEP certificate from members of the STEP Committee in December 2009.

STEP and CART are two of the programs that are exclusive to the Law Enforcement Foundation. If you are interested in sponsoring the STEP or CART program, please contact Donna Braxton at donna.braxton@oacp.org or 614-761-4630.

Congratulations to the Graduates of the Police Executive Leadership College (PELC) Class 59

The Law Enforcement Foundation would like to congratulate the 28 Ohio officers who graduated from the Police Executive Leadership College (PELC) on June 10. PELC is an intensive learning experience focused on leadership skills vital to long term personal success and change in the organization... both for the benefit of the community. The program's objective is to improve the capacity of supervisors in law enforcement; to make them better leaders, to be visionary thinkers in community development, safety initiatives, and most important, to create law enforcement departments that run efficiently by cutting waste, streamlining efforts, and to better identify and utilize available assets.

Here's what a couple of the PELC 59 Graduates had to say about their PELC experience:

“PELC caused me to reflect back on my attitude, leadership style and the communication I had with others. It has made me realize the importance of being positive, promoting teamwork, and making positive, lasting relationships with co-workers, other agencies, and the community.”

-Sgt. Corey Adams, Warren County Sheriff's Office, PELC 59

“PELC forced me to step back and re-evaluate myself as a person, not just as a police executive. I came back with the idea that I have, I am and I will make a positive difference to the people and to the world around me.”

-Sgt. Christopher Hilton, Perkins Township Police Department, PELC 59

This is one of the programs that is exclusive to the Law Enforcement Foundation. If you are interested in sponsoring the PELC program or a student of PELC, please contact Donna Braxton at donna.braxton@oacp.org or 614-761-4630.

Supporting law enforcement is an investment in the safety and well-being of your community. There are many ways to show your support:

- Make a tax-deductible donation at www.lef-oh.org
- Sponsor an LEF program by contacting Donna Braxton, CEO, at donna.braxton@oacp.org
- Enroll your Kroger Plus Card in Kroger's Community Rewards Program in support of LEF at www.krogercommunityrewards.com

Please partner with us and lend your financial support of our programs to help make our Ohio communities even stronger and safer places to live, work, learn, and play.