



D65 Developing a Forensic Science Educators Conference

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The goal of this presentation is to provide attendees an overview of three Forensic Science Educators' Conferences given at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. An overview of each conference, teacher survey findings to assist planning of future conferences, and lessons learned from conducting each of the three conferences will be given. It will also offer suggestions as to how to plan and conduct such a conference in your locale.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by discussing how to plan a successful Forensic Science Educators Conference. Survey findings will be presented as to how each conference has helped teachers develop curriculum to incorporate forensics into their chemistry, biology, or science classrooms.

In December 2000, the Third International Mathematics and Science Study was released comparing US students with those of 43 other nations. By the end of the 12th grade, the performance of US students ranked among the very lowest in math and science of the 43 countries.

This startling statistic inspired the Forensic Science Educators' Conference (FSEC) concept which would take advantage of the popularity of forensic science to increase student's interest in science and math. FSECs are developed to provide teachers the background to enrich and/or develop challenging, innovative science and math curriculums for middle and high school students.

From July 24 to 26, 2006, the third Forensic Science Educators Conference (FSEC) was conducted at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. This conference was designed to be an advanced program, spotlighting emerging forensic disciplines.

After receiving a third \$50,000 grant from the Saigh Foundation of St. Louis to provide 69 full conference scholarships to middle and high school science and math teachers; a partnership between the AAFS, Saint Louis University School of Medicine and the Saigh Foundation was rekindled.

From the experiences gleaned from two previous FSEC's at Saint Louis University School of Medicine in 2002 and 2004; it was decided to introduce the teachers to new forensic science disciplines that they might be able to incorporate into their lesson plans.

The three-day program was developed and included: How to Teach Forensic Science, Trace Evidence, Polygraphy and the Courts, the CSI Effect, Fire Science and Explosions, Patterned Evidence, Analysis of Paints, Inks and Glitter, Available Forensic Resources from the National Clearing House for Science, Technology and the Law, Roles of Forensic Scientists in Mass Disasters, Digital and Multimedia Forensic Evidence, Forensic Nursing, Accident Reconstruction, Criminal Profiling, Forensic Medicine and a Teacher's Panel. Two hours of graduate credit was provided to attendees through Saint Louis University for only \$100.

This presentation will provide attendees an overview of the conference, teacher survey findings, and lessons learned from conducting three Forensic Science Educators Conferences. It will also offer suggestions as to how to plan and conduct a Forensic Science Educators' Conference in your locale.

Forensic Education, Forensic Science Educators Conference, Survey Findings