



### **D65 Setting up and Running a New Forensic Student Organization Within a University Setting**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will learn about the challenges and strengths of organizing a local university group for current and potential forensic students. Attendees will understand the importance of creating these groups in locations that have student interest but do not have a forensic science program, and how the program helps the students personally.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by enhancing the quality of students lives in order that they are better prepared for the work force when they have completed their bachelors degree.

To encourage students who are interested in the field but for whatever the reason could not attend formal programs, this presentation will include details on how to: set up a student organization, get students motivated to do independent learning, deal with legal problems such as students with felony charges, and get students to support and learn from one another.

This presentation focuses on organizing a university based student-group's members. This will include the officer positions and their interactions, and how every member earns titles (levels) within the group as a symbol of their academic achievement. Attendees will also hear about getting students motivated to present at meetings and to do more than just the minimum requirements for their university. This will help when attending conferences like the American Academy of Forensic Science (AAFS) and the International Association of Forensic Science (IAFS). Ultimately this will produce members who are willing to do individual projects and present the findings to further our knowledge in forensics sciences.

At the conference, attendees will see a sample of portfolios made by students within the university organization. These binders will allow the attendees of the conference to see how the program is helping the students on a personal level, and take suggestions back to their own student groups or staff. Some of the feedback from the students to the university group will also be available at the conference; therefore, listeners may learn some "do's and don'ts" within forensic student organizations.

Attendees will discover how to host small conferences that are specifically targeted to students. By learning this skill, attendees can train students, interns, or new employees faster and cheaper than traditional methods. Skills and motivational techniques to get students to help run the conferences will also be taught to attendees making planning and follow-through significantly easier.

Having a member who ultimately cannot work in the field because of a felony conviction is problematic. Attendees will learn how to remove member from a student group in a considerate and ethical manner. Other legal implications and concerns will also be addressed in the presentation.

The ultimate goal of this project is to support students at the university level who do not have a forensic science program yet by fostering learning, sharing, and the development of new techniques in the forensic sciences. By teaching attendees at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting how to set up and run a student group, the worth of the students within the group will may rival the quality of the students in the established forensic science programs. Since our future as investigators will be eventually resting in the hands of these students, attendees will learn how to set up or improve their programs so that the overall quality of investigators will advance.

**University, Education, Organizations**