

Guarding the Badge



Message from the Attorney General

Jeff Jackson, Attorney General



Hi everyone,

I hope you're staying cool as the summer heat kicks in. I've been your Attorney General for over six months now, and every day I'm impressed with the dedication and commitment I see throughout NCDOJ and our state's law enforcement communities. I'm truly grateful for each of you – you make it an honor and a joy to lead this organization.

It's been a busy stretch since I last wrote. I've been on the road meeting with law enforcement partners across North Carolina, tackling challenges like the fentanyl epidemic and the broader opioid crisis. In May, I joined forces with South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson to launch a multi-state effort targeting the international money laundering that fuels fentanyl trafficking. We're demanding answers from the messaging platform WeChat about what steps they're taking to stop this illegal activity — and I hope to have more to share on that soon.

In June, we announced that all 50 attorneys general have signed onto a \$7.4 billion settlement with Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family for their role in the opioid crisis. North Carolina helped lead those negotiations, and we're set to receive nearly \$150 million, with the majority going directly to local governments - including law enforcement - to expand addiction treatment and recovery programs.

I also recently went to Salemburg to celebrate the grand opening of the NC Justice Academy's new driving track. I received some top-notch instruction from my Justice Academy colleagues and got behind the wheel myself to test out the course. I hit a few cones along the way, but thankfully made it out in one piece.

I'll have more to share with you soon. As always, thank you for all you do and keep up the great work.

Sincerely,
Jeff Jackson

Message from the Director

Jeffrey Smythe, Director, Criminal Justice Standards Division



I know that many of your agencies and communities continue to be impacted by the weather-related events from last year, from the "snowmageddon" event in February that forced us to cancel part of our Commission meeting, and from the epic rains and floods around the state this summer. I hope all of you have remained as safe as possible and are recovering from any damage that may have been inflicted.

Here at CJ Standards, we have been working diligently to improve our rules and better support our agencies as well as the integrity of policing. Recently, one of the best steps forward is the passage of new language in NCGS 17C-10.2 as part of Session Law 2025-51. This new language requires agencies to look at the personnel file of prior agencies when hiring a lateral officer. It also requires the prior agencies to make those records available. This information was [communicated to agencies](#) in July, shortly after the law took effect.

And every quarter, we seek rule-making authority to further adjust and improve all of our rules. Please look deeper into this newsletter to see examples of the changes we made in May and some of the requests we are making in August. I encourage you to be aware and involved in these changes as they may affect your employment.

We hope to see you at the August Commission Meeting!

Some highlights to check out in this issue are:

- Acadis Updates
- Stakeholder Spotlight featuring the Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College (ABTCC) Law Enforcement Training Unit
- Community College Article: Running Toward the Storm
- Lessons Learned

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Employee Highlight

Kevin Wallace, Investigator



Kevin Wallace began his employment with the Criminal Justice Standards Division in 2013 as a part-time investigator for all Division of Adult Correction cases. Over the years, additional responsibilities for law enforcement investigations, test administration, and professional certificates were added. He is currently focusing on DAC and LEO investigations.

Born and raised in eastern North Carolina, Kevin graduated from UNC-W, majoring in Sociology/Criminal Justice, and began his career as a NC Probation Parole Officer and rose through the ranks to Training Coordinator, Executive Officer, and Assistant Administrator with the Division of Community Corrections, retiring in 2011. He also served as a Commissioner with the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission from 2002-2011, serving as a member and Chairman of the Planning and Standards Committee.

Kevin is married, lives in southern Wake County, and is an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Garner. He has an adult daughter who lives in Charlotte. Favorite hobbies include playing golf, watching college softball, walking the family dogs, and spending time outdoors at the beach or in the deer woods.



May Commission Meeting Summary

Erica Reid, Assistant to the CJ Division Director



There were one hundred and forty-one (141) candidates for the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate and fifty-seven (57) candidates for the Advanced Criminal Justice Certificate. The Commission voted to award the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate or the Advanced Criminal Justice Certificate to all one hundred and ninety-eight (198) candidates.

New and returning members of the Commission were sworn in before the Full Commission. They included: Todd Joyce, representing the N.C. Police Executives Association; Ted Bell, representing the N.C. Conference of District Attorneys; Eddie Buffaloe, Secretary, Department of Public Safety (Ex Officio Member); Leslie Cooley Dismukes, Secretary, Department of Adult Correction (Ex Officio Member); Boz Zellinger, representing Attorney General Jeff Jackson (Ex Officio Member); David Hess, representing the N.C. Association of Chiefs of Police, Chip Hawley, Director of the State Bureau of Investigation (Ex Officio Member); and Marquie Morrison- Brown, representing the N.C. L.E. Women's Association.

Resolutions of Appreciation were presented to former Commissioner Jeff McCracken, former Commissioner Bob Schurmeier, former Commissioner Seth Edwards, former Commissioner Marsha Williams, and Tim Fuss, Program Director for Law Enforcement Programs at Cape Fear Community College.

Aberdeen Police Department and Knightdale Police Department were awarded their NCLEA Program accreditation.

The Commission meets again August 13-15, 2025.



Acadis Contact Information Updates

In order to receive important updates from CJ Standards and publications like this newsletter please login to your [Acadis account](#) and verify that your email address is up to date. This is also important to remember to complete when switching agencies.

UPDATE



Process Change for Updating Acadis Employment Records

In June, the decision was made to modify the permissions that agency WorkForce Portal users have regarding updating employment records in [Acadis](#).

Prior to this change, anyone at an agency who had WorkForce permissions (usually the Chief or his designee, or the In-Service Training Coordinator) could make updates to their employees' records, including changing their rank/title, moving them from full to part-time or reserve status, and marking them as separated from the agency. This caused confusion for CJ and the Sheriffs' Standards staff when an agency would update an individual's employment record, and we never received the corresponding paperwork required, such as the F-5B for separations or F-19 for status changes.

Currently, agency WorkForce Portal users will only be able to request these types of changes, which will be placed in a queue for our staff to review before accepting the change. For changes such as promotions or supervisor changes, we'll automatically approve them when they come in, since we don't have required forms for those types of changes. For separations or changes in status (FT to PT or Reserve), we will not automatically approve them. They will be held in a processing area until we can confirm that the proper paperwork has been submitted to document the change.

This change should enable CJ Standards staff to have a higher level of confidence in the data represented in the Employment records moving forward and alleviate duplicate work and conflicting record entries from our staff and agency WorkForce Portal users.

If you have any questions, please contact [Russell Henderson](#).

NEW! Advanced Certificate Challenge Coin!

The Criminal Justice Standards Division is pleased to announce the introduction of our new **Advanced Certificate Challenge Coins**. These coins are a special token of recognition, awarded in addition to the Advanced Certificate of Achievement.

To honor those who choose to receive their award in person, any officer who attends a **Quarterly Commission Meeting** to accept their Advanced Certificate will now also receive a commemorative challenge coin. This is our way of celebrating your dedication and recognizing your commitment to professional excellence.

We encourage all eligible officers to attend the ceremony and share this moment of achievement with colleagues, friends, and family.

Please note: Challenge coins will only be distributed at Commission meetings and will not be issued retroactively to previous certificate recipients.

We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments in person.



Coin Front



Coin Back

New Administrative Code Rule Changes

The following rules were approved at the April 24, 2025 Rules Review Commission meeting. Please contact [Michelle Schilling](#) if you have any questions.

Rules Review Commission – Approved Rules

Meeting Date: April 24, 2025

Effective Dates of Rules: May 1, 2025

Rule Number	Rule Title	Change
12 NCAC 09A .0103	Definitions	Added definitions for “Commission” and “Division”.
12 NCAC 09B .0235	Basic Training – Juvenile Court Counselors and Chief Court Counselors	Updated curriculum titles and hours.
12 NCAC 09B .0236	Basic Training – Juvenile Justice Officers	Updated curriculum titles and hours.
12 NCAC 09C .0208	Affidavit of Separation	Added content requirements for Form F-5B
12 NCAC 09C .0306	Lateral Transfer of In-State Law Enforcement Officers	Streamlined process and listed required documents for law enforcement officers transferring from one agency to another.
12 NCAC 09C .0307	Agency Retention of Records of Certification	Added document requirements for lateral transfer officers with probationary or general certification.
12 NCAC 09C .0401	Accreditation of Criminal Justice Schools	Added content requirements for Form F-10(SA). Added summary suspension process for criminal justice schools.
12 NCAC 09C .0403	Reports of Training Course Presentation and Completion	Technical changes
12 NCAC 09E .0104	Instructors: Annual In-Service Training	Added content requirements for Form F-9A. Technical changes. Added requirement for instructors to complete the training for the topic they will be teaching prior to teaching the topic.
12 NCAC 09E .0108	Failure to Complete Annual In-Service Training	Added completion requirements for in-service training credits.
12 NCAC 09G .0102	Definitions	Deleted language referring to the Division of Juvenile Justice and State Corrections Training Points.
12 NCAC 09G .0303	Probationary Certification	Deleted language referring to the Division of Juvenile Justice.



The North Carolina Justice Academy (NCJA) is rolling out an innovative training initiative designed to expand accessibility and streamline processes for law enforcement professionals across the state. Beginning in July 2025, the NCJA's Academy Authorized Instructor Program will enable eligible certified General Instructors to offer NCJA-authorized courses independently. This will ensure greater flexibility in course scheduling, thereby increasing training opportunities for students and agencies across the state, while maintaining high standards of instruction.

Expanding Training Opportunities Through Authorized Instructors

Under this new program, General Instructors who meet the program standards and complete a Train-the-Trainer course for a specific subject area will gain Academy Authorized Instructor status. This designation allows them to schedule and conduct training sessions at their facilities while leveraging the NCJA Acadis registration system to manage enrollment and course records and access the most up-to-date lesson plan and supplemental material.

Once approved to offer a course, the instructor will work closely with NCJA to schedule the class through Acadis, where the Academy will advertise the opportunity to potential students. Participants can register directly via Acadis, ensuring centralized tracking and documentation of their training records.

Inaugural Courses

The initial rollout will focus on five training courses, each supported by a corresponding Train-the-Trainer course:

- Field Training Officer (FTO)
- School Resource Officer (SRO)
- Fundamentals of Crime Scene Investigation (CSI)
- Rapid Deployment
- Police Law Institute (PLI)**

Completing the relevant Train-the-Trainer course qualifies instructors to deliver these essential NCJA-approved classes under the Academy Authorized Instructor model. These subjects were selected to address specific needs across North Carolina.

Maintaining Standards and Training Integrity

Academy-authorized instructors will report course completions through the Acadis system, documenting attendance and successful completion. Once verified, NCJA will officially grant the course completion, allowing students to print their certificates and track their professional training history. From registration through student graduation and course evaluations, each delivery will be consistently delivered and managed by an NCJA instructor or an Academy Authorized Instructor. Streamlining instructional material and logistical aspects of course tracking will help maintain NCJA's rigorous standards.

Initial Rollout and Future Expansion

The program launches with a phased approach to ensure smooth implementation. In addition to the initial five courses, NCJA encourages agencies and instructors to watch for **additional Train-the-Trainer offerings** that will become part of the Academy Authorized Instructor Program over the next year. These future additions will continue to reflect evolving training demands.

By leveraging technology and empowering qualified instructors, NCJA aims to create a more adaptable and efficient training system, ultimately strengthening public-safety readiness across North Carolina.

For more information on the Academy Authorized Instructor Program and upcoming courses, visit the North Carolina Justice Academy website or log into the Acadis registration system.

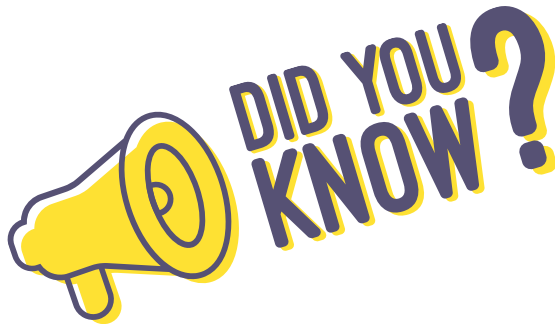
**** PLI Train the Trainer has additional requirements. Individuals requesting authorization must be admitted to the North Carolina Bar Association (in good standing) and, must be any of the following: Police Agency Attorney, Sheriffs' Attorney, or a current or former, District Attorney; Assistant DA; Judge; or attorney formerly employed by the NC Attorney General's Office.**



The Operations Section of the North Carolina Justice Academy consists of teams that serve our stakeholders directly and enrich the training experience of those attending Academy-developed training. These teams include the Bookstore, Business Office, Audio/Visual Production, Maintenance, Housekeeping, Print Services, Student Services, and Registration.

Another vital part of the responsibilities in Operations is capital projects. The Academy has been fortunate to receive badly needed funding to perform critical renovations and repairs to our facilities. For example, we have renovated the driver training range house on the East Campus and repaved the driver training asphalt pad. We are currently replacing the HVAC system for the Learning Resources Center building, repaving Faculty Avenue, upgrading storm drainage and water runoff, and repaving several parking lots on campus. Future construction projects scheduled to begin within the year on East Campus include the construction of a garage to house the driver training fleet, extensive roof repairs to most buildings, and updating the information technology infrastructure with fiber optic networking. On our West Campus, we have several future construction projects in the scheduling phase to begin within the year. The largest such project is the complete renovation of the residence hall and administration building. Additional projects include the renovation of the roof for the gymnasium and the replacement of the HVAC system for the cafeteria building.

The Operations Section appreciates the dedication and sacrifice of all our public safety professionals. Whether law enforcement, detention officers, or telecommunicators, you help ensure the safety of our communities, streets, and highways. We thank you and look forward to serving you.



Pre-Certification of Applicants Attending BLET:

- We now process applications for candidates up to 30 days before the state exam.

Prequalification of Applicants PRIOR to BLET:

- If you are considering an applicant with a criminal record and have already completed the background investigation, we will accept a request to verify their eligibility before you hire the applicant as a cadet.
- Certain procedures apply, and staff will provide guidance on a case-by-case basis.

Please contact NCLEO@ncdoj.gov with any questions



Running Toward the Storm: The First Responders of Hurricane Helene

Jennifer Fisher M.S., Public Safety Training Specialist, Criminal Justice, North Carolina Community College System

When Hurricane Helene made landfall, chaos surged through the Carolinas. Winds howled, waters rose, and entire towns vanished under waves of flood and mud. But amid the destruction, there were those who ran toward the danger. EMTs, police officers, firefighters, National Guard units, nurses, and volunteers—essential workers who stood between life and loss. Many of them, perhaps more than you realize, learned to serve at their local community college. This is the story of those trained in our criminal justice programs. Whether they pursued public safety careers or simply picked up skills they never imagined needing, their community college education equipped them with the tools that mattered in a moment of national crisis.

Ask any law enforcement officer who stepped into Helene's aftermath: the preparation did not begin in the field. It began long before—in simulation rooms and classrooms. In night courses after long shifts. On campuses across North Carolina, determination and purpose met opportunity. These campuses did not just prepare students—they became pillars of the response effort. Take the town of Marshall, for example. When the town was wiped out, government operations shifted to Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College's Madison campus. It transformed overnight into a distribution hub, helipad, and home base for government continuity. At the Woodfin campus, FEMA set up temporary housing, support trailers, food stations, and even laundry services for personnel. The campus became a lifeline for logistical coordination. Three hundred ambulances were staged in a college parking lot, ready to evacuate hospitals if needed. Two college buildings were converted into shelters—one a medical refuge powered by backup generators to keep oxygen machines running. A third housed Red Cross workers, providing rest and coordination space for those supporting displaced families and emergency responders. Meanwhile, the Inca campus prepared for debris removal efforts. This was not hypothetical training. These were real lives, real towns, and real pressure—and the skills taught in those community college classrooms helped hold it all together.

In the wake of the storm, 25% of the community college's students did not return that fall. Many were working adults with families—rebuilding had to come first. But they came back in the spring. Why? Because their instructors never stopped caring. Faculty built informal phone trees to check in, offer flexibility, and provide whatever support they could. And they were not alone; instructors from neighboring colleges stepped in without hesitation, lending their time, resources, and hearts to help impacted colleges keep going. It was not just a response; it was a reminder that in North Carolina's community colleges, no one faces hardship alone.

Technical programs with small, tight-knit cohorts stayed in close contact. Students saw they were not just numbers; they were human beings in crisis, and their college stood by them. For students of criminal justice and future law enforcement officers, this is more than a career path. It is a calling. And community colleges are where that calling begins. Whether it is a cadet fresh out of Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) or a seasoned officer returning for continuing education, community colleges deliver job-ready, real-world training. They develop the people who run toward danger. Who steps in when the sirens sound—and stays long after the headlines fade.

Hurricane Helene revealed the worst nature can offer—and the best in human response. It showed us the quiet power of education, the strength of community, and the essential role of our first responders. And it reminded us that the training that saves lives often begins in a classroom. And behind many of those responders? A community college. A classroom. A moment where someone decided: "I want to help."

Lessons Learned:

Commonly Encountered Rule Violations of Criminal Justice Officers

Kenneth J. Shultz, Policy Advisor and Investigations Manager, Criminal Justice Standards Division



The Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission (CJETS) is tasked with many functions, including creating and enforcing rules addressing the certification of "criminal justice officers." This definition includes Law Enforcement Officers, Department of Adult Correction Officers, Juvenile Justice Officers, and local Confinement Officers.

A consolidated listing of all administrative rules can be found here:

[OAH - NCAC > Title 12 - Justice > Chapter 09 - Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards - Browsing](#)

The Probable Cause Committee of CJETS meets quarterly to hear cases brought against officers for violations of administrative rules. Findings of Probable Cause may result in proposed actions against certifications to include written warnings, suspensions, revocations, or denials. The duration of these actions is dictated by rule and range from a 3 or 5-year suspension period, to an indefinite or permanent revocation.

The Probable Cause Committee hears over thirty cases each session. Some cases are unique, but many involve similar fact patterns and repeated rule violations. This article addresses a few of these commonly encountered rule violations and should serve as a warning of unacceptable actions. Criminal justice officers are expected to display stellar ethical behavior in their personal and professional lives, and in doing so, they must also comply with the administrative rules.

Missing or Falsified Training Records

As part of the audit process, CJ field representatives look through agency training files for complete documentation of training for each certified officer. On occasion, an agency may be unable to locate the required training records.

Our investigation will focus on whether the classes were taught and if the records can be located from the original training location (the instructor may have maintained a roster, community college, etc.) or if the training was not conducted at all.

If an agency attempts to falsify records to address the issue of missing records or training that was not conducted, that will lead to an investigation into all certified personnel involved. The rule addressing this matter can be found here:

[12 NCAC 09A.0204](#) SUSPENSION: REVOCATION: OR DENIAL OF CERTIFICATION

(b) The Commission may suspend, revoke, or deny the certification of a criminal justice officer when the Commission finds that the applicant for certification or the certified officer:

(7) has knowingly and willfully, by any means of false pretense, deception, defraudation, misrepresentation or cheating whatsoever, obtained or attempted to obtain credit, training or certification from the Commission;

(8) has knowingly and willfully, by any means of false pretense, deception, defraudation, misrepresentation or cheating whatsoever, aided another person in obtaining or attempting to obtain credit, training or certification from the Commission;

Off Duty Employment Record Reporting

Over the past year, CJSD has seen an increase in questionable separation reports indicating that a resignation or dismissal took place after the officer was investigated by their agency for issues related to off-duty employment records. Three commonly reported elements included:

Lessons Learned:

Commonly Encountered Rule Violations of Criminal Justice Officers (Continued)

Kenneth J. Shultz, Policy Advisor and Investigations Manager, Criminal Justice Standards Division

-Officers being accused of “double dipping” by reporting commonly worked time to both the LE agency and the off-duty job employer. This resulted in both entities paying officers for the same time worked.

-Officers submitting time sheets to off-duty jobs attesting to hours worked, for which they were not actually present. This commonly included instance with patterns of late arrivals and/or early departures, while timesheets were never adjusted from the fully scheduled shift hours.

-Officers checking on-duty and present at off-duty employers while GPS units or other evidence showed them away from the site. Many times, this was discovered during subsequent investigations concerning one of the previously noted matters.

These situations reflect poorly on the officer and their agency and reduce the confidence and trust of the off-duty employer who hired the officer to do a job.

When this situation has arisen, CJ Standards has conducted investigations against officers for consideration of the commission of *Obtaining Property by False Pretenses* in violation of [G.S. 14-100](#). What makes these investigations more serious is the fact that even if only a small amount of money is involved, this crime is still considered a Class H Felony. The sanction for the commission/conviction of a felony is a permanent revocation. In addition to losing certification in North Carolina, such sanctions are also reported to the National Decertification Index, where it serves as a nationwide notice.

To avoid these investigations, officers must be precise with their reports. They should follow their agency's policies closely and seek clarification when needed. Accuracy matters for reporting purposes, and the officer must pay attention to times entered, never overlapping reported work times, and arriving and remaining on duty for the duration of their expected shifts. Discrepancies between reported and worked time can be considered both fraud and unethical behavior.

The primary rules addressing this crime can be found here:

[12 NCAC 09 B .0111](#) CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD

(a) Consistent with and subject to the requirements of 12 NCAC 09A.0204, every law enforcement officer employed or certified in North Carolina shall not have committed or been convicted by a local, state, federal, or military court of:

(1) a felony;

Or here:

[12 NCAC 09G .0302](#) CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD

(b) Consistent with and subject to the requirements of 12 NCAC 09G.0504, every correctional officer, probation/parole officer applicant, and probation/parole officer employed or certified in North Carolina shall not have committed or been convicted by a local, state, federal, or military court of:

(1) a felony.

Stakeholder Spotlight

It has been a phenomenal Spring at ABTCC!

Daryl Fisher, Director, Law Enforcement Training
Asheville/Buncombe Technical Community College

On January 6, 2025, the Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College (ABTCC) Law Enforcement Training Unit, including Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET), started the first official class for BLET 2025 for the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission (CJ Standards) and the NC Justice Academy (NCJA). ABTCC had already run two (2) pilot classes for this new version of BLET. We firmly believe that delivering the two pilot classes better prepared us for the official start of BLET 2025. When starting something new, adjustments and adaptations are always needed. CJ Standards and the NCJA incorporated our feedback, as well as feedback from the other pilot delivery sites, to shape BLET 2025. I am sure more adjustments will occur as more Community Colleges and Academies start and finish their deliveries. Still, the program is designed to bring forth the best-qualified basic law enforcement officers possible for the agencies and communities we serve. BLET 2025 requires 868 hours. This is an increase of 228 hours.

Class 0125 started with 32 students. We had 8 area agencies represented. Those agencies included the following:

- Asheville Police Department (15 students; graduated all 15)
- Buncombe County Sheriff's Office (8 students; graduated 6)
- Hendersonville Police Department (3 students; graduated 2)
- Brevard Police Department (2 students; graduated 1)
- Weaverville Police Department (1 student)
- Fletcher Police Department (1 student)
- Maggie Valley Police Department (1 student), and
- Mars Hill Police Department (1 student).

During the class, we lost one student due to missing too much time for illness, lost another due to early withdrawal, and lost two more due to academic failure. We are pleased to report that both students who previously experienced academic difficulties are coming back to our July class to continue their dream of becoming law enforcement officers. Twenty-eight (28) students completed this session of BLET and graduated on June 18, 2025, in a ceremony on ABTCC's main campus.



Stakeholder Spotlight

It has been a phenomenal Spring at ABTCC! (Continued)

Daryl Fisher, Director, Law Enforcement Training
Asheville/Buncombe Technical Community College

BLET 2025 adds numerous hours of practical exercises to enhance the classroom lecture. Students must perform satisfactorily on these exercises to continue in the program. Hands-on training reinforces the classroom lecture and enables students to apply what they have learned in class. Check-off sheets for performance evaluations are required as part of the paperwork documentation for BLET 2025. Again, everything is designed to produce the best candidates possible.

We had two (2) students who experienced injuries but were able to heal quickly and complete their physical fitness requirements without issue. Several students experienced end-of-block test failures, but except for the two academic failures, all students were able to pass retests and comply with the NC Administrative Code related to test failures. We at ABTCC can attest that we watched each student grow and mature throughout this process. Speaking of maturity, student ages in the class ranged from 20 to 52. The best part of our classes at ABTCC is when we can recognize our students' accomplishments. Awards presented for this class at graduation included the following:

- Top Gun:
 - Ethan Moore, Buncombe County Sheriff's Office
 - Top firearms qualification scores average from four qualifications of 99.4
- Most Improved Physical Fitness:
 - Justin Cross, Weaverville Police Department
 - Improved the pursuit portion of POPAT from over 11 minutes to 5:21
- Highest Grade Point Average Pre-State Exam:
 - Dradon Ingle, Asheville Police Department
 - Semester Average of 98.82
- Highest State Exam Score:
 - Chandler Hensley, Mars Hill Police Department, with a score of 89
 - Zachary Stout, Asheville Police Department, with a score of 89
- Best Instructor for Class 0125
 - Officer Michael Sorensen, Asheville Police Department
 - Voted on by the students
- Trailblazer Award
 - Edward Soloman, Asheville Police Department
 - Exemplified ABTCC's acronym of RISE
 - RISE stands for Respect, Integrity, Support, & Equity for Everyone



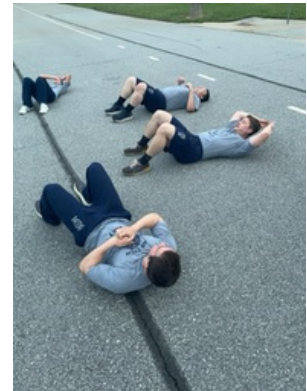
Stakeholder Spotlight

It has been a phenomenal Spring at ABTCC! (Continued)

Daryl Fisher, Director, Law Enforcement Training
Asheville/Buncombe Technical Community College

Our most significant highlight of this class occurred on Friday morning, May 16, 2025, at 6:30 a.m., when North Carolina Attorney General (AG) Jeff Jackson and some of his staff visited the ABTCC Woodfin Campus to participate in our Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) Physical Fitness Training (PT) class. PT Lead Instructor Mike Sorensen and Asheville Police Chief Mike Lamb put all of them through the rigorous workout. AG Jackson told us he believed that this group was ready to be successful for their upcoming final POPAT. I agreed with the AG's assessment, and all our students did pass their final POPAT. Our PT instructors worked hard to prepare these students. It is great to have the support of AG Jackson, the NC Department of Justice, the NC Criminal Justice Standards, our college President, Dr. John Gossett, and our college Vice Presidents.

We are seeing an increase in the number of BLET applicants. Our goal is to have two classes this Fall, and both are expected to be full. We are currently taking applications for 2026 and beyond. It has been a phenomenal Spring at ABTCC!



CJ Standards Training Team News



CJ STANDARDS DIVISION TRAINING, RESEARCH, & FIELD SERVICES TEAM

ISTC Course Update

The **Coordinating In-Service Training (Initial)** and **In-Service Training Coordinator Refresher** courses have proven to be invaluable resources for our agency's In-Service Training Coordinators (ISTCs). Since January 2025, the Division has been conducting in-person training sessions across the state, serving both individuals seeking ISTC certification and those who have been in the ISTC role for some time.

Due to the popular demand for these courses, we have added 3 additional refresher courses for 2025. In 2026, our goal is to schedule 12 Initial classes and 24 Refresher classes.

Some attendee feedback:

- *"A much-needed class! Refreshers should be mandatory!"*
- *"Additional ACADIS features and clarification on F# forms. Updates and Potential changes coming up were very useful"*
- *"The amount of details and examples was great"*
- *"Digital version of the course being emailed prior to class"*
- *"Very helpful and informative"*

Currently, we have 54 people enrolled in the other 3 full ISTC training courses, and 24 people enrolled in the 3 refresher courses we have still to come in 2025.

Full ISTC Course Calendar:

- Haywood CC 9/12/25
- Johnston CC 10/24/2025
- Alamance CC 11/07/2025

Refresher ISTC Course Calendar:

- Brunswick CC 8/22/2025 *FULL*
- Samarcand Training Academy 9/10/2025
- Halifax CC 10/10/2025
- Surry CC 11/12/2025

Our goal is to ensure that our agencies' In-Service Training Coordinators (ISTCs) are fully informed and continuously updated on in-service training requirements, relevant changes to the Administrative Code that impact their roles, and how to effectively navigate the extensive offerings within the Acadis training portal.

We look forward to sharing this valuable information with your ISTCs and ISTC candidates.

Please note that registration for all ISTC courses is available through the [Acadis training Portal](#). We're busy confirming locations for the 36 courses in 2026. They'll be added to Acadis as they are confirmed, we have 20 of them up already!

2025 School Directors' Conference: Registration Now Open!!

The 2025 School Directors' Conference will be held September 21 – 23, 2025 at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro, NC. For more information and the conference agenda, please visit [our website](#). CJ Standards hosts this conference each year for the School Directors and Qualified Assistants who administer our criminal justice programs. Guest speakers this year include Attorney General Jeff Jackson, retired Police Chief Harry P. Dolan, and NC Department of Public Safety Secretary Eddie Buffaloe, Jr.

You may register for the conference through the [Acadis portal](#).



OPEN

Upcoming CJ Standards Certification Workshop



We are excited to offer our CJ Standards Certification Workshops across the state this year. We selected four locations for these trainings, which are listed below. There is one training remaining for 2025. These workshops will be exclusively for police chiefs, executive staff, and other personnel involved in processing paperwork for submission to the CJ Standards Division, ensuring compliance with employment and retention standards. Please note that these workshops will not cover private campus or company police.

The final workshop for 2025 is posted in the [ACADIS Training Portal](#) and open for registration. When registering, please remember to print, complete, and upload the Written Endorsement to Attend Training Form, which is available within the registration process.

Date and location for the Workshops are as follows:

- ~~March 26, 2025 – Carteret Community College – Morehead City, NC~~
- ~~May 28, 2025 – Catawba Valley Community College – Hickory, NC~~
- ~~July 23, 2025 – Wake Technical Community College – Raleigh, NC~~
- October 15, 2025 – Robeson Community College – Lumberton, NC

WORKSHOP





DAC Certification Team

J. Eric Preddy, Criminal Justice Specialist/Investigator III, Criminal Justice Standards Division

We're excited to share the latest updates and highlights from our team's activities. Here is a breakdown of our key actions and milestones for mid-year 2025:

Correction Officer Probationary Certifications Issued: 823

Correction Officer General Certifications Issued: 453

Probation/Parole Officer Probationary Certifications Issued: 128

Probation/Parole Officer General Certifications Issued: 119

Referred to Investigations: 53

Certification Reconciliation and Application Improvements

In our continued effort to maintain accurate and timely certification records, the DAC Certification Team launched a reconciliation project to identify individuals with active certifications who are no longer employed with DAC. To date, we've reviewed 6,152 personnel files and identified 742 inconsistencies, most of which were the result of retirement-related separations.

To strengthen this process, we now have access to DAC's employment separation data through Smartsheet. This enhancement allows us to receive real-time updates and respond more promptly to staffing changes.

Additionally, we've been working closely with DAC management to receive certification applications prior to an applicant's hire date. This proactive measure allows us to review and approve certifications in advance, ensuring that individuals begin employment fully certified on day one—shifting us from a reactive posture to a forward-facing certification process.

Stay tuned for more updates in the next newsletter!



Juvenile Justice

Working Together to Strengthen North Carolina's Youth and Families



News from Juvenile Justice

Dannika Hester, Criminal Justice Specialist/Investigator II, Criminal Justice Standards Division

As we move through another quarter, the Division of Juvenile Justice at Criminal Justice Standards continues its commitment to maintaining the integrity and quality of our certification processes. This year, we've seen consistent engagement from hiring staff across the state as they work to ensure their staff meet the necessary standards to serve youth in juvenile facilities.

From April through June, the Criminal Justice Standards Division issued:

56 certifications for Juvenile Justice Officers (JJO)

26 certifications for Juvenile Court Counselors (JCC)

These certifications represent more than just numbers; they reflect the hard work of new professionals entering the field and the dedication of agencies ensuring compliance with all standards during onboarding.

We continue to monitor probationary periods closely, and we want to remind agencies that all newly hired officers must complete their required training within the designated 12-month period. Extensions are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, but our goal is to support timely completion and encourage proactive scheduling of Basic Training courses to avoid delays.

Looking ahead, we're excited to continue working with our agency partners to ensure Juvenile Justice professionals are equipped, certified, and ready to make a positive impact. We thank you for your continued cooperation and dedication to upholding the standards that support safer, stronger communities.



NC Law Enforcement Accreditation (NCLEA) Program News

Karen Ashley, Program Manager, Criminal Justice Standards Division

The North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation (NCLEA) program celebrated its two (2) year anniversary last month. Since the last edition of the newsletter, the Knightdale Police Department and the Aberdeen Police Department received their first NCLEA awards at the May 9, 2025, CJ Commission meeting. Three (3) agencies are up for their first NCLEA award at the August 15th CJ Commission meeting (Kings Mountain Police Department, Hickory Police Department, and the Fuquay-Varina Police Department). The Cleveland County Sheriff's Office had their site-based assessment on July 15, 2025. All of these agencies, their leadership, and their accreditation managers are to be commended for their commitment to professionalism in their pursuit of accredited status. Accreditation is growing in North Carolina, and we welcome all agencies that desire to adopt the best practices in the profession.

Copies of the NCLEA Standards Manual and Program Guide are available on the [NCLEA webpage](#) for immediate download. There is no cost for the documents and there is no cost for enrollment. We have an excellent Mentor program, free of charge, to help small and rural agencies pursue accreditation. Many of the agencies who have received their first NCLEA award are being mentored by a veteran accreditation manager.

The draft North Carolina Public Safety Communications Accreditation Program (NCPSCAP) will be presented to both Commissions soon, and with their approval, will go live in early 2026. Currently, a Detention Advisory Group (DAG) is working on a standards manual for state accreditation in detention. We hope that the detention program is up and running in early 2027. There is no cost to enroll in any of the state accreditation programs, and participation is voluntary. If you would like additional information on any of these state accreditation programs or the Mentor program, please reach out to [Karen Ashley](#).



Knightdale PD



Aberdeen PD

August 2025 Commission Schedule

Committee	Date	Day	Time
Probable Cause Committee*	8/12, 8/13 & 8/14	Tue, Wed, & Thurs	9:00 AM
Planning & Standards Committee	8/13	Wednesday	10:00 AM
Education & Training Committee	8/13	Wednesday	2:00 PM
Final Agency Decisions	8/14	Thursday	9:00 AM
CJFP Committee	8/13	Wednesday	1:00 PM
Executive Committee	8/14	Thursday	Conclusion of FADS
Full Commission	8/15	Friday	9:00 AM

NOTE: THE COMMISSION MEETING AND THE MEETINGS OF THE RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES WILL CONVENE AT THE STATED TIMES AND WILL REMAIN IN SESSION UNTIL THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE FULL COMMISSION MEETING ON AUGUST 15, 2025.

November 2025 Commission Schedule

Committee	Date	Day	Time
Probable Cause Committee*	11/19 & 11/20	Wed & Thurs	9:00 AM
Planning & Standards Committee	11/19	Wednesday	10:00 AM
Education & Training Committee	11/19	Wednesday	2:00 PM
Final Agency Decisions	11/20	Thursday	9:00 AM
CJFP Committee	11/20	Thursday	2:00 PM
Executive Committee	11/20	Thursday	Conclusion of FADS
Full Commission	11/21	Friday	9:00 AM

NOTE: THE COMMISSION MEETING AND THE MEETINGS OF THE RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES WILL CONVENE AT THE STATED TIMES AND WILL REMAIN IN SESSION UNTIL THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE FULL COMMISSION MEETING ON NOVEMBER 21, 2025.

CJ STANDARDS DIVISION



For contact information click [**here**](#).

[CJ Training & Standards](#)

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Please contact our Editors with questions or comments:
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