

Guarding the Badge



Message from the Attorney General

Jeff Jackson, Attorney General



Hi everyone,

I'm excited to announce that Eric Preddy is our new Criminal Justice Standards Division Director.

Eric's been with CJ Standards as a specialist and investigator since 2024 and has nearly 30 years of law enforcement experience beginning with the Durham Police Department, then the Raleigh Police Department, and then as a captain with the Morrisville Police Department. Eric's experience in training officers, developing agency policies, and responding to critical law enforcement situations makes him incredibly well-qualified for this new role. Please join me in congratulating him.

A few other updates from me. In March, I went to Charlotte to discuss efforts to combat fentanyl trafficking alongside South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Estella Patterson. We're successfully bringing down overdose deaths, but we're going to keep at the work to go after traffickers. My special prosecutions section continues to prosecute serious crimes when called upon by District Attorneys, and we've recently had several convictions across the state.

I also attended the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony here in Raleigh a couple weeks ago. It was a reminder of your dedication – you give justice to victims and bring a measure of peace and healing to their families. Thank you.

Best,
Jeff Jackson

In this Issue:

Employee Highlight 2

Commission Meeting Summary 2

Administrative Code Rule Changes 3

NCJA 5

Community College News 7

2026 School Directors' Conference 9

Stakeholder Spotlight 10

ISTC Course Update 14

Certification Workshops 15

DJJ News 16

NCLEA Program News 17



Message from the Director

J. Eric Preddy, Director, Criminal Justice Standards Division



I am honored to serve as Director of the Criminal Justice Standards Division and to support the important work of the Commission. This Division plays a vital role in ensuring that professional standards are applied consistently and credibly across North Carolina, and I appreciate the opportunity to work alongside our partners to carry out that mission.

I am grateful to Attorney General Jackson and the members of the Commission for their trust and support. I look forward to working closely with both to ensure the continued integrity and effectiveness of the Division's work.

My focus as Director will be on maintaining clear communication, supporting consistent application of standards, and ensuring the Commission has the information needed to make sound, informed decisions. I look forward to continuing our collaboration with agencies, training centers, and stakeholders across the state.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to Interim Director Robin Pendergraft for her steady leadership and commitment to the Division during this transition. Her work has helped maintain continuity and professionalism, and I am grateful for her service.

Please enjoy this edition of our newsletter and reach out to me at jpreddy@ncdoj.gov if you have any questions about the content.

Some highlights to check out in this issue are:

- Scholarship opportunities with the NCCCS
- 2026 School Directors' Conference Announcement
- Stakeholder Spotlight featuring Southwestern Community College

Employee Highlight

Michelle Schilling, Deputy Director



Michelle has been a valued member of the CJ Standards Division since 2014, where she first served as an Investigator before assuming her current role as Deputy Director of the Training, Research, and Field Services Unit.

Before joining the Division, Michelle served over 20 years in the United States Marine Corps. During her distinguished military career, she worked as a Criminal Investigator and later as a Chief Warrant Officer at the Joint Forces Correctional Facility, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

She earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from National University in San Diego and a Master's degree in Business and Organizational Effectiveness from Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer. Michelle is also a proud graduate of the 75th session of AOMP.



February Full Commission Meeting Summary

Erica Reid, Assistant to the CJ Division Director



New members of the Commission were administered the Oath of Office by Ms. Erica Reid before the Full Commission. They included: Jeffrey Smythe, Secretary, Department of Public Safety (Ex Officio Member); Michael Baker, representing Colonel Freddy Johnson, Jr.; and Ashby Ray, representing Secretary Jeffrey Smythe.

Resolutions of Appreciation were presented to former CJ Standards Division Director Jeffrey Smythe and to former Commissioners Eddie Buffaloe and Estella Patterson for their service to the Commission.

There were one hundred and twenty-six (126) candidates for the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate and ninety (90) 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 two hundred and sixteen (216) candidates.

Guilford Technical Community College Campus Police Department and the North Carolina State Highway Patrol were awarded their first North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation (NCLEA) awards.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for May 5-8, 2026, at the Wake Technical Community College, Public Safety Education Campus in Raleigh, NC.

Administrative Code Rule Changes

We have officially begun the Readoption step of the Periodic Review Process. This means that, over the next two years, we will be readopting every one of our rules. During each quarterly Commission meeting, we will be introducing a new group of 30 rules for readoption. To see the rules that will be proposed during the May Commission Meeting, see the May 2026 Committee Packets for the Planning & Standards Committee and the Education & Training Committee on the [Commission webpage](#) (see the May 2026 folders under "Commission Documents").

If you have any questions about the rules process or proposed rule changes, please reach out to Rules Coordinator [Holly Cardoza](#).

Rule Updates Effective July 1, 2026		
12 NCAC 09E .0107	Failure to Qualify: Annual Firearms Qualification	Readopt w/Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to wording • Removes the requirement to complete a BLET Firearms Course following an Annual Firearms Qualification failure 	
12 NCAC 09G .0305	Recertification Following Separation	Readopt w/Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates training requirements for Correctional and Probation/Parole Officer applicants who have a break in service 	
12 NCAC 09G .0411	Basic Training for Correctional Officers	Readopt w/Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines Correctional Officer Basic Training (COBT) course curriculum • Outlines Abbreviated COBT course curriculum 	
12 NCAC 09G .0412	Basic Training for Probation/Parole Officers	Readopt w/Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines Probation/Parole Officer Basic Training (PPOBT) course curriculum • Outlines Abbreviated PPOBT course curriculum 	
12 NCAC 09B .0601-.0608		Repeal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The content of these rules is no longer relevant. 	

Rule Updates Effective October 1, 2026		
12 NCAC 09A .0102	Purpose	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09A .0106	Criminal Justice Standards Division	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09A .0107	Procedures for Petitions for Rule-Making	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09A .0201	Investigation of Violation of Rules	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09A .0202	Sanctions for Violations by Agencies or Schools	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09A .0203	Sanctions for Violations by Individuals	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09A .0207	Administrative Hearing Procedures	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09B .0103	Fingerprint Criminal History Record Check	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09B .0104	Medical Examination	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09B .0105	Employment Interview	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09B .0106	Documentation of Educational Requirements	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09B .0111	Criminal History Record	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09B .0212	Certification and Re-Certification Training for Radar Operators	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09B .0215	Supplemental SMI Training	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09B .0242	Certification and Re-Certification Training for Radar/Lidar Operators	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09B .0408	Comprehensive State Examination - SMI Operator Certification	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09B .0409	Satisfaction of Training - SMI Operators	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09C .0308	Speed Measuring Instrument (SMI) Operators Certification Program	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09C .0601	Approved Speed Measuring Instruments	Readopt (no changes)
12 NCAC 09C .0607	Speed Measuring Instrument Accuracy Tests and Operational Procedures	Readopt (no changes)

Rule Updates Effective October 1, 2026 Continued

12 NCAC 09A .0101	Location	Readopt w/Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating Division address 	
12 NCAC 09A .0103	Definitions	Readopt w/Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removing references to “Time Distance” 	
12 NCAC 09A .0204	Suspension: Revocations: or Denial of Certification	Readopt w/Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grammatical Fix 	
12 NCAC 09A .0205	Period of Suspension: Revocation: or Denial	Readopt w/Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adding suspension timeline for the new “sex on duty” and untruthfulness clauses 	
12 NCAC 09A .0206	Summary Suspensions	Readopt w/Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows the Director of the Division to summarily suspend certifications in specific circumstances 	
12 NCAC 09B .0403	Evaluation for Training Waiver	Readopt w/Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating requirements for law enforcement officer applicants with prior NC law enforcement experience who have a break in service Updating training requirements for law enforcement out-of-state transfers, including establishing a 40-hour out-of-state transfer course 	
12 NCAC 09B .0414	Comprehensive State Exam – Specialized Instructor Training	Readopt w/Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating the minimum score on the State Exam for Specialized Instructor Training courses from 75% to 80% Allows for a retest option for those who score 70%-79.99% No retest option for SMI Instructor Recertification exams 	
12 NCAC 09C .0303	Probationary Certification	Readopt w/Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines requirements for requesting a 6-month extension for probationary juvenile justice officers and juvenile court counselors to complete basic training 	
12 NCAC 09G .0303	Probationary Certification	Readopt w/Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines requirements for requesting a 6-month extension for probationary correctional officers and probation/parole officers to complete basic training 	
12 NCAC 09G .0304	General Certification	Readopt w/Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates application requirements for correctional and probation/parole officer applicants who are transferring from a non-certified position within DAC 	
12 NCAC 09I .0109	Certification Forms - Adult Correction	Adopt
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines form contents for Correctional and Probation/Parole Officer Certification forms 	



Acadis Usage Statistics



In 2025, the Division delivered 69,235 individual online tests across the state. This includes BLET End of Block tests and State Exams for BLET, Instructor, SMI, Juvenile Justice, and Specialized Instructors. We delivered these tests to 15,349 unique students.

So far in 2026, we have already delivered 20,976 individual online tests across the state to 4,487 unique students. We are testing an average of 1,500 students per month.

In 2025, we accepted 676 In-Person Training submissions from agencies across the state, allowing them to enter this in-person training from their agency into Acadis.

So far, in 2026, we have already accepted 489 In-Person Training submissions. At the current rate of submissions, we will likely receive around 1,800 submissions this year.

NC Justice Academy Updates

Trevor Allen, Director, North Carolina Justice Academy



- Received a \$500k grant from the Governor's Crime Commission to purchase virtual reality equipment to supplement training deliveries. NCJA staff are reviewing several training courses (De-escalation, SRO, Officer Safety, etc.) to integrate the equipment for practical exercises.
- Received grant funding to purchase a skid car to support driver training. NCJA staff are reviewing the Fundamentals of Law Enforcement Driving course to integrate this device into the curriculum.
- The Justice Academy received a successful CALEA Year-1 Audit in March of 2026. NCJA was the first training academy in NC to become accredited via CALEA and is proud to maintain this status.
- Multiple repaving projects at the Salemburg Campus are now complete (Driving Track, Faculty Street, and multiple parking lots). These are critical to our goal of facility improvements across both campuses and improving the student experience.

Repaving Projects



NC Justice Academy Updates (Continued)

Trevor Allen, Director, North Carolina Justice Academy



- On April 28, the heroic service of Mr. Jack Lucas (USMC) was honored at a plaque dedication ceremony at our Salemburg Campus. Lucas was a student at Edwards Military Institute (formerly located on our Salemburg Campus). Here is a short video that details Lucas' heroism, ultimately earning him the Medal of Honor: https://youtu.be/JKM00iQZe4g?si=2lr62Gf3AIVksU5_.



- The chiller for the HVAC system in the cafeteria building at our Edneyville campus has been replaced. Other renovations (Administration Bldg. and Residence Hall) in Edneville are planned for 2026.
- The 2026 Peace Office Memorial Ceremony was held on April 14th in Greensboro, where four officers were honored. The Justice Academy and our NCFOP and NCCOPS partners will begin preparing the logistics for the 2027 ceremony in the coming weeks.





Investing in Those Who Serve: Scholarship Opportunities for Public Safety Personnel in North Carolina Community Colleges

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

Across North Carolina, community colleges are doing more than training the next generation of public safety professionals. They are actively removing financial barriers so those called to serve can answer that call. A wide range of funding opportunities exists to support both current and aspiring public safety personnel.

At the core of this effort is accessibility. Through the North Carolina Community College System, students can access a combination of federal financial aid, state funded programs, and local scholarships designed to significantly reduce or even eliminate out-of-pocket costs.

One of the most impactful options is the [Next NC Scholarship](#), which can fully cover tuition and fees at any of the state's 58 community colleges for eligible students. In addition, students should explore traditional financial aid options through FAFSA, which often unlocks grants, work study, and other need based support.

Beyond tuition, North Carolina offers targeted support to help students stay enrolled and complete their training. Programs like the [Finish Line Grant](#) provide emergency financial assistance for unexpected expenses such as transportation, childcare, or course materials. This support helps students overcome short term barriers that might otherwise prevent them from finishing their program. For those entering the field, the [NC Criminal Justice Fellows Program](#) also provides critical assistance for individuals pursuing careers in law enforcement.

Many public safety professionals begin or advance their careers through workforce continuing education programs. Scholarships, fee waived courses, and short term workforce training funds, often administered locally, can support certification based training such as Basic Law Enforcement Training and the Detention Officer Certification Course. These programs are designed to be fast, flexible, and aligned with employer needs.

Students should also take full advantage of local opportunities. Organizations like the [North Carolina Community Foundation](#) administer more than 100 scholarships annually, many of which are county specific or focused on public service careers. Individual community colleges also offer institutional scholarships funded by local businesses, civic groups, and donors. These awards often range from \$500 to \$2,500 and frequently prioritize high need fields such as law enforcement, detention services, and emergency communications.



Investing in Those Who Serve: Scholarship Opportunities for Public Safety Personnel in North Carolina Community Colleges (Continued)

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

For most students, the key to unlocking these opportunities begins with a single step, completing the FAFSA. From there, the most important action is connecting directly with a local community college. Financial aid offices, workforce development teams, and program advisors can help students identify every available funding source, from statewide programs to local scholarships, and guide them through the process.

Students are also encouraged to take advantage of additional statewide and community-based support resources:

- <https://www.findhelp.org/> helps individuals locate free or reduced-cost services in their community, including food, housing, transportation, and financial assistance that can support student success outside the classroom.
- <https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/students/student-services/student-support> page provides information on academic advising, career coaching, and wraparound services available at colleges across the state.
- [Scholarships - NCCCS](#) highlights a range of scholarship opportunities available to community college students, including both statewide and institution-specific funding.

Scholarship programs across North Carolina reflect a broader investment in public safety infrastructure. By reducing financial barriers and supporting student success from enrollment through completion, these efforts help recruit, retain, and advance the professionals who serve our communities every day.

For current public safety personnel looking to upskill, or for those just beginning their journey, the message is clear. Financial support is available, and your local community college is ready to help you take the next step.



2026 SCHOOL DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

WE ARE EXCITED FOR THE UPCOMING 2026 SCHOOL DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE. SCHOOL DIRECTORS AND QUALIFIED ASSISTANTS WILL COLLABORATE ON INNOVATION IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION.

CONTINUOUS TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

- THE FUTURE OF AI IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING
- CJ TRAINING BEST PRACTICES ACROSS THE NATION - WHERE DOES NC FIT IN?
- ACADIS UPDATES
- PREPARING FOR A SUCCESSFUL AUDIT
- CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESS IN ADULT LEARNING
- INSTRUCTOR 101
- SCIENCE OF HOPE
- FLIP THE SWITCH ON INTERPERSONAL CONFLICT
- REGIONAL MEETINGS



20-22
SEPT 2026



Stakeholder Spotlight

Southwestern Community College - Division of Public Safety Training: Resiliency Within the Training Environment

Curtis Dowdle, Dean of Public Safety Training

Mitch Boudrot, Law Enforcement Training Program (LETP) Director, PSTC

Tyler Goode, Director of Public Relations, Southwestern Community College (SCC)

In 2004, Southwestern Community College's Public Safety Training Center (PSTC) experienced exponential growth in all public safety disciplines. To ensure our public safety professionals received the dedication and necessary acquisition of mindset, knowledge, skills, and abilities, SCC committed to realigning programs, which in turn created the Division of Public Safety Training, with the mission of delivering entry-level, advanced, and continuing education to public safety professionals within Law Enforcement, Fire-Rescue, and the Emergency Medical Services. The creation of a training center dedicated to public safety provided the momentum and culture shift to ensure immersion into professional public safety, which required unconventional training opportunities in contrast to previously experienced curriculum scheduling and facilities, including schedules that followed the rigors and complexity of how public safety agencies operate daily, 365 days a year. Simply put, SCC's Division of Public Safety Training avoids suspending training operations due to routine weather or other events that would normally disrupt or postpone operations in most academy environments. While this concept seems simple, when coupled with the establishment of high expectations and personal accountability, it ensures that our students are prepared for excellence within the training academies and for field operations in their chosen career in public safety. These elements are part of establishing and ensuring resiliency within the training environment.

On Monday, 12 January 2026, the North Carolina Basic Law Enforcement Training (NC-BLET) Class #93 academy started at 08:00 Hrs., with fourteen (14) full-time and one (1) partial-enrollment recruit. During *Orientation*, the Recruits received a review of the administrative guidelines and expectations for continued operations within the training academy. BLET Class #93 is a diverse group, representing sponsorship from more than 10 agencies in Western North Carolina. BLET #93 worked well together in the first days of their training and looked forward to a successful academy training experience. And yet, no one could have imagined what was about to happen during their short tenure as BLET Recruits.

On Thursday, 22 January, BLET Class #93 began their training day with an end-of-block exam in Health & Wellness. This would be followed by the BLET #93's initial Wellness Assessment. As scheduled, the assessment shifted from the completed 300-meter sprint to the last event, the 1.5-mile run.

After a short rest period, the BLET #93 made their way to the paved Driver Training Facility to complete the 1.5-mile run event. The instructor provided final instructions for the event, and the class started their timed run within the secure facility. Within a quarter of the first lap, Recruit Ryan Ferreira, sponsored by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO), fell to the ground and passed from an unexpected and sudden health event.

Recruit Ferreira died less than two weeks into his academy training.

Stakeholder Spotlight

Southwestern Community College - Division of Public Safety Training: Resiliency Within the Training Environment (Continued)

Curtis Dowdle, Dean of Public Safety Training

Mitch Boudrot, Law Enforcement Training Program (LETP) Director, PSTC

Tyler Goode, Director of Public Relations, Southwestern Community College (SCC)

“After Ryan passed away, so many people called me or told me about ways he touched their lives, things he had done for them,” said Ryan’s mother, Yeimi Alvarez. “I didn’t realize how many lives he impacted.”

Ryan’s classmates only knew him for a short window of time before his untimely passing, but they are now determined to honor his memory in every possible way. His classroom desk remains untouched inside the Jerry Sutton Public Safety Training Center, his BLET jacket neatly wrapped around the empty chair.

A blue ribbon adorned the flagpole where the NC-BLET Recruits raise the colors of the United States flag each morning, in formation with their National Park Service - Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy (NPS-PRLEA) counterparts.

To help Ryan’s family cover unexpected funeral expenses, classmates organized a fundraiser to sell challenge coins in his memory, with the motto “Do It For Ryan!” BLET #93 raised more than \$3,000 in less than a month and presented the proceeds to his mother and kid brother Kevin Ferreira on Feb. 24, with a dozen or so family members also in attendance at the PSTC.



“We did not expect this,” Kevin Ferreira said. “With the people in his BLET program here, it’s not like school friends who don’t really know much about your family. They are more of a tight-knit friend group. We really appreciate them and this gesture. It shows us how much Ryan affected their lives also.”

A 2019 graduate of Franklin High School, Ryan earned his associate degree in Criminal Justice from Southwestern Community College in 2023.



Stakeholder Spotlight

Southwestern Community College - Division of Public Safety Training: Resiliency Within the Training Environment (Continued)

Curtis Dowdle, Dean of Public Safety Training

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Even as first aid was being administered, Ferreira's classmates came together.

"We all gathered and said a prayer right there on the track," said Cameron Campbell, a fellow recruit and Class Sergeant for BLET #93. "It's such a tragedy, and our hearts go out to his family. We are doing all we can, and we are probably the most-connected class there has ever been. Hardship brings people together."

The loss is also felt across the Cowee Mountains, where Recruit Ferreira had already been hired as a Deputy for Jackson County Sheriff Doug Farmer.

"Ryan showed exceptional ability to balance rigorous training with empathy and kindness, qualities that endeared him to both fellow cadets and the community," Sheriff Farmer said. "He aspired to make his family proud while pursuing his dream of a career in law enforcement, and his sudden loss has left a profound void among his family, fellow cadets, and the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. And yet it inspires his peers to embody the example he set, reaffirming the lasting impact of his promising legacy on all who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside him."

Though Ryan's family never expected a tragedy at such an early stage of his law enforcement career, they always understood that peril accompanies his chosen path – and they even attempted at times to encourage him to find a different, and perhaps safer path. But, ultimately, Ryan was not interested.

"We tried to talk him out of it (law enforcement), but he would say: 'It's not all about money; I want to help people,'" Kevin recalled.

Though becoming a law enforcement officer was Ferreira's dream, it wasn't his first goal in life.

"His first love was soccer," recalled Ryan's younger brother, Kevin. "But he was always a bigger guy and not the quickest. So, after he realized soccer wasn't going to work out, he realized he always wanted to help people. Our father (Ryan A. Ferreira) was a cop in Mexico, so he thought maybe he'd like to be a cop, and that became his dream."

Ryan's mother vividly remembers the day he came home from class wearing a bulletproof vest.

"He never liked to take pictures," Yeimi Alvarez said. "Anytime we would try to take his picture with a phone, he would say 'No, no.' But that day, when he wore the bulletproof vest, he was so proud. I asked to take his picture, and he said, 'O.K.,' and he gave me the thumbs-up. He told me: 'I am doing what I want to do.'"

Stakeholder Spotlight

Southwestern Community College - Division of Public Safety Training: Resiliency Within the Training Environment (Continued)

Curtis Dowdle, Dean of Public Safety Training

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As tragic as the loss of Ryan Phillip Ferreira is, and was, we remain grateful to have had the opportunity to train with him during the first two weeks of the academy, as he endeavored to fulfill his vocation of serving and protecting his community through the noble tradition of American policing. Even in his last moments, he was determined to succeed, until at last, he succumbed to what even he had no control over, and what each of us must eventually confront... our mortality as human beings.

In life, there are things that we have control over and things that we do not. The accumulated wisdom of passing years helps us to clarify the difference between the two. Everything that was within our control and capacity was executed with excellence, to the best of our ability, training, and experience on 22 January 2026 - as SCC PSTC alumni, staff, and faculty, across the disciplines of EMS, Fire-Rescue, and Law Enforcement, did everything within their power to provide life-saving interventions to one of our own.

Tragedy reminds us of what we may casually take for granted as we navigate the mountains and valleys of life. That is why we, as professionals within public safety training, are determined to live life to the fullest, moment-to-moment, in both gratitude and love, realizing what is essential - rather than what is trivial and distracting, while fulfilling our vocation of service to others. In doing so, the world becomes a better place - one person at a time.

As the Greek poet and soldier, Archilochus, wrote in his time, *"We do not rise to the level of our expectations... we fall to the level of our training."* Resiliency - our capacity to adapt and recover from challenges, obstacles, trauma, significant physical, mental, emotional stress, injury, and/or loss, remains paramount within the administration of public safety training and operations - today and always - as underscored by the North Carolina state motto: *Esse quam videri (To be... rather than to seem - or appear to be).*

Together... our mission continues.

CJ Standards Training Team News



CJ STANDARDS DIVISION TRAINING, RESEARCH, & FIELD SERVICES TEAM

2026 ISTC Course Dates

The Coordinating In-Service Training (Initial) and In-Service Training Coordinator Refresher courses have proven to be an invaluable resource for agency 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.

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"*

Scheduled ISTC Course Calendar:

- Coordinating In-Service Training - Samarcand Training Academy 05/07/2026
- Coordinating In-Service Training - Wayne Community College 07/09/2026
- Coordinating In-Service Training - Guilford Technical Community College 9/3/2026
- Coordinating In-Service Training - Isothermal Community College 10/8/2026
- Coordinating In-Service Training - Louisburg PD 11/10/2026



Refresher ISTC Course Calendar:

- In-Service Training Coordinator Refresher - McDowell Tech 05/19/2026
- In-Service Training Coordinator Refresher - Pitt Community College 05/28/2026
- In-Service Training Coordinator Refresher - Alamance Community College 06/18/2026
- In-Service Training Coordinator Refresher - Robeson Community College 06/30/2026
- In-Service Training Coordinator Refresher - Vance-Granville Community College 08/27/2026
- In-Service Training Coordinator Refresher - Haywood Community College 09/17/2026
- In-Service Training Coordinator Refresher - Cape Fear Community College 09/29/2026
- In-Service Training Coordinator Refresher - Surry Community College 10/20/2026
- In-Service Training Coordinator Refresher - Boone PD 11/19/2026
- In-Service Training Coordinator Refresher - Rowan-Cabarrus Community College 12/10/2026
- In-Service Training Coordinator Refresher - Nash Community College 12/17/2026

Our goal is to ensure that agency 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](#).

CJ LEO Certification Team

Program Managers Maddie Jones and Brian Mote; Administrative Specialist Tammy Hobbs

CJ LEO Certification Workshop

A friendly reminder to sign up for a 2026 Certification Workshop. Classes are filling up fast, so please reserve your space as seats are limited. Attendance is highly encouraged. The dates and locations for each workshop are listed below.

Who Should Attend:

Police Agency Heads, Agency Authorized Representatives, and any sworn or non-sworn personnel responsible for the processing and handling of the certification paperwork. Please be sure to come prepared with questions you may have.

Please be advised that neither "private" campus police nor company police processes will be covered.

Time:

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM



Topics Covered:

The certification and paperwork process, separations, lateral transfers, timelines, and more.

Registration:

Please register by going to your [Acadis Training Portal](#) and searching for the CJ LEO Certification Workshop.

Date:

Location:

May 14, 2026

Cape Fear Community College
4500 Blue Clay Rd
Castle Hayne, NC 28429

July 30, 2026

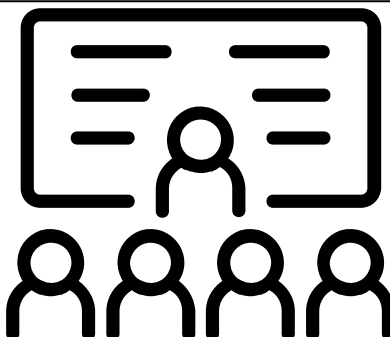
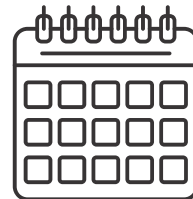
Wake Technical Community College
321 Chapanoke Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27603

September 30, 2026

Pitt Community College
169 Bulldog Run
Winterville, NC 28590

November 19, 2026

Rowan/Cabarrus Community College (North Campus)
1333 Jake Alexander Blvd S.
Salisbury, NC





DJJ Certification Team

Dannika Hester, Criminal Justice Specialist and Program Manager, Criminal Justice Standards Division



Understanding Military Documentation & Discharge Status

The Criminal Justice Standards Division recognizes and values the service of applicants with prior military service. To support an efficient certification process, we would like to share a few helpful reminders regarding the submission of military documentation.

Required Documentation

Applicants who have served in the military must provide official discharge documentation, most commonly the **DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty)**. This document helps us accurately verify service history and discharge status.

Understanding Discharge Characterization

Discharge status is one part of the overall review process. Common characterizations include:

- Honorable Discharge
- General Discharge (Under Honorable Conditions)
- Other Than Honorable (OTH)
- Bad Conduct Discharge
- Dishonorable Discharge

Depending on the characterization, additional documentation may be needed to complete the review.

Helpful Tips

To help avoid delays in processing, please ensure the following:

- Review the DD214 to ensure it is complete and legible before submitting
- The appropriate version of the DD Form 214 is provided (Member 4 copy)
- Ensure all required forms accurately reflects military service.

We're Here to Help

If you are unsure which documents to submit or have questions about a discharge status, please don't hesitate to [contact our office](#). Our team is here to assist you and help avoid unnecessary delays in the processing of applications.



NC Law Enforcement Accreditation (NCLEA) Program News

Karen Ashley, Program Manager, Criminal Justice Standards Division



Two (2) law enforcement agencies received their first North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation (NCLEA) award at the February CJ Commission meeting. Congratulations to Guilford Tech Community College (GTCC) Campus Police and NC State Highway Patrol on successfully completing the law enforcement program. Congratulations also to the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office on receiving their first North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation (NCLEA) award at the March Sheriff's Commission meeting! They are the 17th agency to complete the law enforcement accreditation program since it was approved in June of 2023.

The North Carolina Public Safety Communications Accreditation Program (NCPSCAP) launched on March 2, 2026, and thus far, five (5) agencies have enrolled in this accreditation program for communications centers. Many thanks to the members of this Advisory Group for their hard work and efforts in creating the standards manual for this program, which is comprised of 56 standards. For more information on this program, please follow the link on the NCLEA webpage.

We are proud to announce another new program to advance the professionalism of law enforcement agencies in North Carolina. The Essential Standards Program (ESP) is designed to be a "gateway to accreditation" and introduces small and rural law enforcement agencies to the concepts of accreditation. Both Commissions have approved the ESP and will begin to take applications this summer. The ESP is comprised of twenty (20) critical standards to reduce risk and litigation within law enforcement agencies. Completion of this program will result in a professional certificate of completion from the agency's Commission.

The Detention Advisory Group (DAG) continues to work on developing a detention standards manual for North Carolina. This group of subject matter experts from across the state have been meeting monthly, and progress is being made. Like the law enforcement and communications programs, this program is voluntary, and standards are provided at no cost to agencies that desire to pursue accredited status.

If you would like additional information on any of these state accreditation programs or the Mentor program, please reach out to the [Program Manager, Karen Ashley](#).



NC State Highway Patrol



Guilford Tech CC Campus Police



Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office

May 2026 Commission Schedule

Committee	Date	Day	Time
Probable Cause Committee*	5/5, 5/6, & 5/7	Tue, Wed, & Thurs	1:00 PM Tue 9:00 AM Wed & Thurs
Planning & Standards Committee	5/6	Wednesday	10:00 AM
CJFP Committee	5/6	Wednesday	1:00 PM
Education & Training Committee	5/6	Wednesday	2:00 PM
Final Agency Decisions	5/7	Thursday	9:00 AM
Executive Committee	5/7	Thursday	Conclusion of FADS
Full Commission	5/8	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 MAY 8, 2026.

* PROBABLE CAUSE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION.

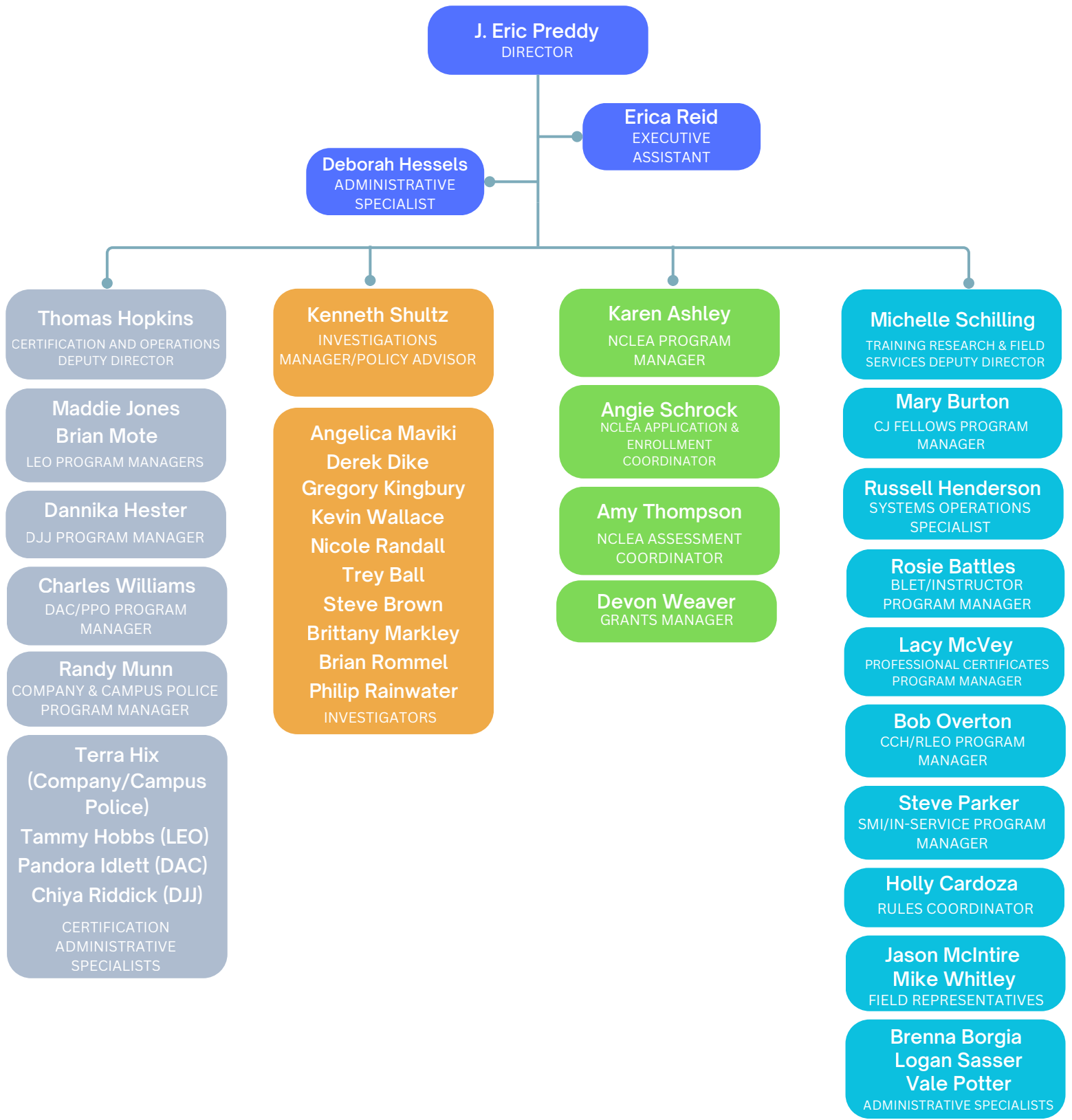
August 2026 Commission Schedule

Committee	Date	Day	Time
Probable Cause Committee*	8/11, 8/12, & 8/13	Tue, Wed, & Thurs	1:00 PM Tue 9:00 AM Wed & Thurs
Planning & Standards Committee	8/12	Wednesday	10:00 AM
Education & Training Committee	8/12	Wednesday	2:00 PM
Final Agency Decisions	8/13	Thursday	9:00 AM
CJFP Committee	8/12	Wednesday	1:00 PM
Executive Committee	8/13	Thursday	Conclusion of FADS
Full Commission	8/14	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 MAY 8, 2026.

*PROBABLE CAUSE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE HELD IN CLOSED SESSION.

CJ STANDARDS DIVISION



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

[CJ Training & Standards](#)

919-716-6000

Please contact our Editors with questions or comments:
[Deborah Hessels](#) & [Devon Weaver](#)