



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: HCSO Hosts American Jail Association Leadership Training

Date: March 28, 2022

In August 2021, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office agreed to host an American Jail Association (AJA) on-site Training and Professional Development course called Leadership Skills for First Time Supervisors instructed by Professor Sam Davis from Michigan State University.

Professor Davis, a retired Major, served as the Jail Administrator at the Ingham County Sheriff's Office, in Mason, Mich., until his retirement in 2017. An AJA certified Jail Manager, Professor Davis graduated from the Corrections Academy and the 83rd Mid-Michigan Police Academy. He trains on Workplace Diversity, Leadership, Ethics, Jail Operations, Objective Jail Classification, and more. Sam holds a Master's Degrees in Education and is an Adjunct in the School of Criminal Justice at MSU.

Professor Davis chairs the Training and Professional Development Committee for the Board and the Leadership Track on the Conference Planning Committee and is a Lifetime Member of the AJA.

This seminar is designed for new supervisors who are seeking tools to help them succeed in the correctional environment. Many times, new supervisors are not prepared to move from peer status to supervisor within 24 hours. This interactive seminar provides the opportunity to learn from both attendees and instructors. Exercises demonstrate real-life applications to what is learned during the seminar.

At the end of this course, participants will:

- Clarify the scope and nature of a supervisory position.
- Learn some ways to manage the challenges of the role.
- Recognize the responsibilities supervisors have in their new position, to themselves, their team, and their organization.

- Learn key techniques to help new supervisors plan and prioritize effectively.
- Acquire a basic understanding of leadership, team building, communication, and motivation, and what part they play in effective supervision.
- Develop strategies for motivating a team, giving feedback, and resolving conflict.

The two-day training is taking place March 28-29, with 38 participants from all over Florida and the country. In addition to our Hernando County participants, representatives from other areas include Broward, Hardee, Hendry, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, Seminole, and Taylor counties. Participants also came in from Coconino County, Ariz., Richmond County, Ga., and Orleans Parish, La.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in 2016, and was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.