



Western Association of Criminal Justice

Friday, October 10

9:30am

MORNING REFRESHMENTS

Emerald Bay 123

Sponsored by: Sam Houston State University

10:00am – 10:50am

EVENT # 13

Emerald Bay 123

PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Teaching, Learning, and Technology in Criminal Justice

Chair: Kenneth Christopher, National University

Emerging AI and Autonomous Technologies: Implications for Building Organizational Capacity in Homeland Security

Kenneth Christopher, National University

This paper will offer data and research on trends and developments in AI-driven autonomous technologies and explore the need for homeland security organizations to consider how to position themselves to manage in this environment. What knowledge, skills, abilities and resources will public safety and private security organizations need to leverage the use of AI-driven autonomous technology?

Assessment of Learning Outcomes and an Analysis of Open-Ended Responses for Undergraduate Students Enrolled in Criminal Justice Courses

Sriram Chintakrindi, California State University, Stanislaus

This study evaluates the learning outcomes of college-level students enrolled in criminal justice courses at a public university through a comprehensive assessment of their experiences, knowledge, and skills. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining quantitative analysis of student assessment data with qualitative analysis of open-ended responses. Quantitative results indicate that students value their criminal justice program, professors, courses, and instructional materials when assessing student learning outcomes. Additionally, students self-evaluated their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Qualitative analysis of open-ended responses revealed themes related to students' perceptions of the course material, including its relevance to real-world applications and the importance of ethical considerations in criminal justice practice.



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11:00am-12:00pm

EVENT # 14

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WORKSHOP: The Path to Parole for Lifers -- Cognitive Behavioral Programming They Can Actually Learn

Christine Morse Fitch, California State University, Sacramento

The Menendez brothers have recently brought the parole hearing process into the public eye, but still, little is known about it. And Lyle and Erik Menendez are not typical "lifers." The sentence, "Life with the possibility of parole" should be called "Life with the small, less than 15% chance of getting released onto parole and not dying in prison." Convincing a parole board that you are "suitable" for parole is very difficult, and relies less on the law and more on what curricula you have engaged in, and on your ability to show that you are using the lessons you have learned. But many people in prison have learning disabilities, low IQ, physical disabilities, mental illnesses, and other issues that can be barriers to learning. Therefore, *how* the information in these self-help courses is presented to people in prison can be the biggest factor in making their "possibility of parole" a real one. "Decision-Making for Success" is the curriculum I designed for incarcerated people with learning challenges, and this presentation will show excerpts from the videos and the workbook, and explain the evidence on which it is based.

12:00pm

CLOSING REMARKS

Emerald Bay 123

Kelly Menck, 2024-2025 WACJ President