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The need for crime laboratories and universities to co-operate with forensic research projects

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Universities have a long history as being bastions of research. They have learned the ins and outs of grant applications long ago. Forensic facilities are staffed by personnel that have learned the application and modification of concepts from their college days. By combining the efforts of both a winning combination for all parties can be created. Currently most universities utilize grad students to conduct research. This is well and good but many times they are misguided in their efforts. Why not form partnerships with forensic personnel that have a better understanding what actually goes on in real casework and what areas need researched. This would require commitments from all parties concerned. The universities would need to be flexible with regards to schedules because of court and casework commitments that have to be dealt with my forensic facilities; forensic facilities/personnel would need to make commitments of devoting the time needed to make the project work. This could in certain instances require personnel to devote some personal time to bring the project to fruition. This type of partnership could greatly the field of forensic science by focusing research into areas that are in the greatest need.

Biography

James B Crippin first started in forensics in 1977 and is still currently active in the field of forensic science. He worked for the Missouri State Highway Patrol for 11 years, The Colorado Bureau of Investigation for 14 years and then created the Western Forensic Law Enforcement Training Center 11 years ago where he still serves as Director. He has also taught over 80 classes in various areas of forensic analysis or Homeland Defense areas as well as presented 25 papers and had 8 articles published in professional journals. In his career he has trained several thousand students from almost every US Federal LE agency as well as many state/ local agencies and military as well as overseas.

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