

## **Criminal justice program expands classes, draws more female students**

Student registration has doubled and similar attendance is expected for fall

### **Media Contact:**

Clayton Steenberg  
Administration of Criminal Justice Professor  
Copper Mountain College  
csteenber@cmccd.edu  
(760) 366-3791 Ext.0294

**JOSHUA TREE (May 24, 2011)** — In the year and a half since Copper Mountain College revamped its justice program attendance has doubled, mostly with an increase in female students.

Professor Clayton Steenberg was brought on to create a full-time Administration of Criminal Justice program at the college and modernize it with new courses suggested by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. He started seeing changes immediately and has already noticed similar patterns for the fall semester.

Revamping the program has brought in twice the number of students enrolled in criminal justice courses. And while the school is targeting men and women, women are signing up in higher numbers than men. In Steenberg's five classes, he has 110 female students and 36 male students. One of his classes is comprised entirely of women. Many are single parents wanting a profession that pays well, he said.

Steenberg fashioned the new course offerings to draw a wider range of students. Now instead of classes only being specific to people going into policing with titles such as traffic control and narcotics, courses include juvenile delinquency and community relations.

The all-female class Steenberg is currently teaching covers correctional systems and is an introduction to prison, parole and probation.

"That's an area a lot of females tend to be interested in more than policing," Steenberg said.

In changing from a part-time program to full time, the school also recalibrated its focus from training just police to anyone wanting to go into criminal justice, social services and human services. That allows students graduating with an associate's degree in Criminal Justice to prepare for such careers as social workers, lawyers or dispatchers.

"I still teach the basics for anyone in law enforcement, all we've done here is expand the offerings to include those more than police officer training," Steenberg said.

He saw similar results when he worked at Arkansas State University's extension campus in Jonesboro, but he's not done yet with his efforts at Copper Mountain College.

Steenberg would like to build an internship program where students can shadow employees in the field exploring the practical side of their chosen career with what they're learning in class.

**About the Desert Regional Consortium of Community Colleges:** The Desert Regional Consortium consists of 13 community colleges and two community college districts in Riverside, San Bernardino and Kern counties. The consortium assists colleges in providing professional development opportunities and designing programs to improve workforce training and technical education. The consortium was formed to address the economic development needs of industry, government and the community.

**More info:** [www.desertcolleges.org](http://www.desertcolleges.org)

**Consortium members:** Barstow College, Cerro Coso Community College, Chaffey College, College of the Desert, Copper Mountain College, Crafton Hills College, Mt. San Jacinto College, Moreno Valley College, Norco College, Palo Verde College, Riverside City College, Riverside Community College District, San Bernardino Community College District, San Bernardino Valley College, Victor Valley College

###