

2026

CRIME & JUSTICE RESEARCH CENTER ANNUAL REPORT

Presented at the Crime & Justice Advisory Committee Annual Luncheon

September 25, 2026

A NEW CHAPTER

Crime & Justice Research Center Becomes a University-Wide Center



The 2025–26 academic year marked an important new chapter for the Seattle University Crime & Justice Research Center. The Center transitioned to the Office of the Provost as a university-wide center, expanding opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and strengthening connections between Seattle University and our community partners.

Throughout the year, the Center continued to advance its mission through applied research, education, student engagement, and sustained partnerships with crime and justice professionals and community organizations. From collaborative research and evaluation to community-police dialogue, prison education, and experiential learning, this work demonstrates the value of bringing academic, practitioner, and community expertise together.

The Crime & Justice Advisory Committee remains central to this work. I am grateful to our members and partners for the expertise, time, and commitment they contribute. As the Center begins this new chapter, I look forward to building on these partnerships and identifying new ways Seattle University can contribute to addressing the complex challenges of crime and achieving justice.

Jacqueline B. Helfgott, PhD
Director, Seattle University Crime & Justice Research Center
Loyola Endowed Professor

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Over Two Decades of Academic–Practitioner Partnership



Now in its 23rd year, the Crime & Justice Advisory Committee brings together 185 members representing 80 agencies and organizations. Members include criminal justice professionals, community leaders, alumni, educators, researchers, and others committed to strengthening criminal justice education, research, and practice. The Advisory Committee is central to the Crime & Justice Research Center's collaborative model. Members contribute professional expertise, develop research and community initiatives, support internships and experiential learning, participate in practicum courses and public events, and help students prepare for meaningful careers.





2025 ANNUAL LUNCHEON RECAP

At the 2025 Annual Luncheon, members considered the question: *What emerging challenges, opportunities, and changes in the criminal justice landscape should inform our curriculum and the Center's research collaborations and events?* The discussion focused on preparing students for a changing professional environment and strengthening the transition from academic study to professional practice.

The 2025 Annual Awards went to:

- **Kim Bogucki** (SPD) — *Innovation in Criminal Justice Education Award*
- **Loren Atherley**, PhD, MACJ '10 (SPD)— *Distinguished Alumni Award*
- **Alhagie Manneh** (FBI) — *Practicum Facilitator Award*

2026 MIDYEAR MEETING

Featured presentations by Chief Steve Bear of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Police on wildlife law enforcement and public safety, and Li Huang, PhD, on corporate and computer crime

2025–26 AT A GLANCE

Research • Partnership • Engagement

195
Advisory Committee Members

83
External Agencies & Organizations

15
Student Research Analysts

6
Externally Funded Collaborative Projects

12
CJRC Events & Experiential Opportunities

6
Applied Research Reports

25
Agencies at the Annual Career Fair

6
Countries Represented at the Annual Continuing Education Event

$300K+
External Research and Program Funding

$28K+
Gifts & Donor Support



COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Collaborative Student-Faculty-Agency-Research





During the 2025–26 academic year, the Crime & Justice Research Center managed six externally funded collaborative research and evaluation projects. These initiatives brought together Seattle University faculty and student research analysts with public agencies, community organizations, practitioners, and residents.



FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Seattle Police Department

- Micro-Community Policing Plans and Seattle Public Safety Survey
- MCPP Community-Police Dialogues
- Before the Badge Community-Police Dialogues
- Before the Badge Longitudinal Evaluation
- MCPP Little Saigon Evaluation



Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

- Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth Evaluation

Together, these projects generated actionable findings, expanded experiential learning opportunities for students, and strengthened the Center's role as a hub for collaborative, community-engaged research.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

SUPERR

Seattle University Prison Education for Rehabilitation & Reentry





SU RED TALK LAUNCHES SUPERR

In February 2026, Jacqueline Helfgott presented Seattle University's Winter Red Talk, "How Prison Education Restores Justice," publicly launching the SU-PERR initiative. The presentation traced decades of prison engagement connecting the SU and prison communities.

FEATURED IN SU NEWS & MEDIA

- SU News (2026) *Restorative Justice*
- Red Talk (2026) *How Prison Education Restores Justice*: Full Talk | Short Overview
- KOMO News (2012) *Restorative Justice Behind Bars at WSR* — planned for relaunch through SU-PERR at MCC–TRU in summer 2027

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY JOINS JPEN

SU-PERR is a Crime & Justice Research Center initiative to establish a BA/BS degree program in Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Monroe Correctional Complex–Twin Rivers Unit. Supported by a $39,000 Raskob Foundation grant, the faculty team conducted a yearlong feasibility study on developing the program and expanding prison education in Washington State. As part of this work, Seattle University became the first Jesuit university in the West to join the Jesuit Prison Education Network (JPEN). JPEN Coordinator Fr. Tom Curran later visited SU and met with the Washington State Department of Corrections education staff and SU faculty, staff, and students.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN ACTION

CONCRETE CONVERSATIONS: A JOURNEY INTO PRISON LIFE

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM
Dialogue • Prison Visits • Lived Experience

Concrete Conversations: A Journey into Prison Life is a Crime & Justice Research Center experiential learning practicum that brings together Seattle University students and incarcerated individuals through classroom preparation, facilitated dialogue and visits to the Monroe Correctional Complex and *The IF Project* We Thrive Center, bringing together incarcerated and non-incarcerated communities while providing opportunities to learn about volunteer and career pathways with WA DOC. The 2026 practicum features Rachel Kjack and Anthony Covert of the *Concrete Mama Podcast.*





RESTORATIVE DIALOGUE IN ACTION

Students • Police • Conversation • Change

Restorative Community-Police Dialogue Circles bring Seattle University students and Seattle Police personnel together in facilitated restorative dialogue to share experiences, build relationships and trust, and develop tangible ideas for change. Through conversation in a non-confrontational setting, students and police explore perspectives on policing, community, public safety, and opportunities for systemic change. The practicum provides students with a distinctive opportunity to engage directly with Seattle Police personnel while applying restorative dialogue principles in practice.



EVENTS & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

DISTINGUISHED LECTURES & SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout 2025–26, the Crime & Justice Research Center convened students, scholars, practitioners, alumni, and community members for public lectures, career development, collaborative research, and dialogue.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURES



Dr. Adrian Raine - Author of *The Anatomy of Violence* and *The Psychopathology of Crime*
November 3, 2025

Adrian Raine presented a distinguished lecture examining biological and psychological perspectives on violence, psychopathy, and criminal behavior.



Dr. Valerie Jenness - *Policing the Rainbow*
November 5, 2025

Valerie Jenness discussed LGBTQ+ people's experiences with law enforcement, perceptions of police, policy preferences, and willingness to report crime and victimization. The program included a panel discussion and Q&A with law enforcement and community representatives.

SPECIAL EVENTS



CONCRETE MAMA PODCAST SCREENING & DISCUSSION
April 27, 2026

The Center hosted a screening and discussion featuring Rachel Kjack and Anthony Covert of the Concrete Mama podcast. The program explored prison life, incarceration, personal transformation, reentry, and the power of sharing lived experience.



CAREERS IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY Q&A
March 9, 2026

Seattle University alumni working as forensic psychologists answered students' questions about graduate education, internships, career preparation, and professional practice in correctional and state-hospital settings.

EVENTS & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

CAREERS, APPLIED RESEARCH, AND CONTINUING EDUCATION



CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAREER FAIR
February 10, 2026

The annual Criminal Justice Career Fair connected students with representatives from 25 agencies and organizations, creating opportunities to explore career paths, internships, and professional networks. Each agency shared information in an initial presentation followed by opportunity for students to meet one-on-one with agency representatives.

WILDLIFE AND ANIMAL TRAFFICKING RESEARCHATHON
February 21, 2026

Held on World Pangolin Day, this all-day student research event featured Chief Steve Bear of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Police, SU alum Emily Dorscher of the Everett Police Department, and the National Organization of Crime Analysts. Students participated in collaborative data collection, guest presentations, prizes, and pizza.





CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH DIALOGUE AND PRISON EDUCATION
May 8, 2026

The Center's annual continuing education program featured Lori Pompa, founder and executive director of the Inside-Out Center, and interactive sessions led by formerly incarcerated Inside-Out coaches. Participants from six countries explored how dialogue and prison education can foster connection, deepen understanding, and advance social change.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP & MEDIA

TRANSLATING RESEARCH FOR PUBLIC AUDIENCES

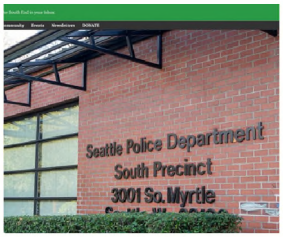
During 2025–26, the Crime & Justice Research Center expanded the reach of its scholarship through public commentary, media interviews, peer-reviewed publications, and professional presentations. Several op-eds and articles were authored or coauthored by CJRC student research analysts and alumni.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Research-based op-eds and news interviews connected Center scholarship to contemporary public issues, including police training, community engagement, and public safety.

SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Center scholarship reached academic and professional audiences through peer-reviewed and professional publications, invited commentary, and conference presentations.



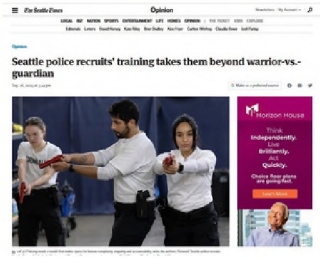
Voices

OPINION | Hey, South Seattle: There's Still Time to Take a Public Safety Survey

By taking part in a 10-minute survey, South End residents can express what makes them feel safe. The survey, in 11 languages, closes Dec. 1.

Jacqueline Helfgott, Ella Vermeire

Published on: Nov 21, 2025, 10:23 am · 4 min read



Seattle police recruits' training takes them beyond warrior-vs.-guardian

The Seattle Times

SOUTH SEATTLE EMERALD

Seattle survey: Traffic safety tops community concerns as pedestrian deaths surge

Story by Joel Moreno, KOMO News Reporter • 5mo • 3 min read



Seattle survey: Traffic safety tops community concerns as pedestrian deaths surge

Data | Law & Justice | Local News

Seattle crime survey reveals a decade of shifting safety concerns





KIRO 7

LOCAL

AI-generated homeless man prank causes false alarm at Oak Harbor High School

By Jason Sutich, MyNorthwest.com and Alison Ahmoye, KIRO 7 News

October 08, 2025 at 6:35 pm PDT



Rolling Stone



LUIGI MANGIONE, COPYCAT CRIMES, AND THE RISE OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE



THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Jacqueline B. Helfgott: What the release of the South Hill rapist says about the civil commitment of sexually violent predators, remorse and justice

By Jacqueline B. Helfgott

Seattle survey asks for neighborhood safety views, aids crime strategy

KOMONEWS



ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

Descriptive Evaluation of Seattle Community Assisted Response & Engagement (CARE)

Jacqueline B. Helfgott
Matthew J. Hickman
Seattle University

Journal of COMMUNITY SAFETY & WELL-BEING

Police Practice and Research
An International Journal

Improving public safety through precinct and neighborhood-based virtual restorative community-police dialogues

Jacqueline B. Helfgott, Brandon N. Bledsoe & Shannon Christensen

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

CELEBRATING MILESTONES ACROSS THE CJRC COMMUNITY

CJRC RESEARCH ANALYSTS GRADUATE

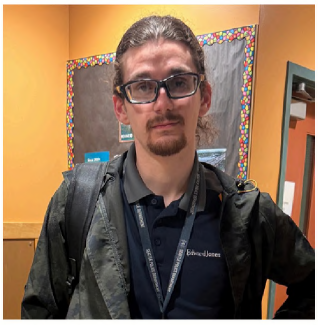


SPD MCPP RAs Tess Harbert, Ella Vermeire,, and Claire Moore and SPD BTB RA Alison Davis, and Rainier Beach ABSPY RA Alondra Gallegos-Campos graduate — June 14, 2026

2026 BLUME CJ SCHOLARS

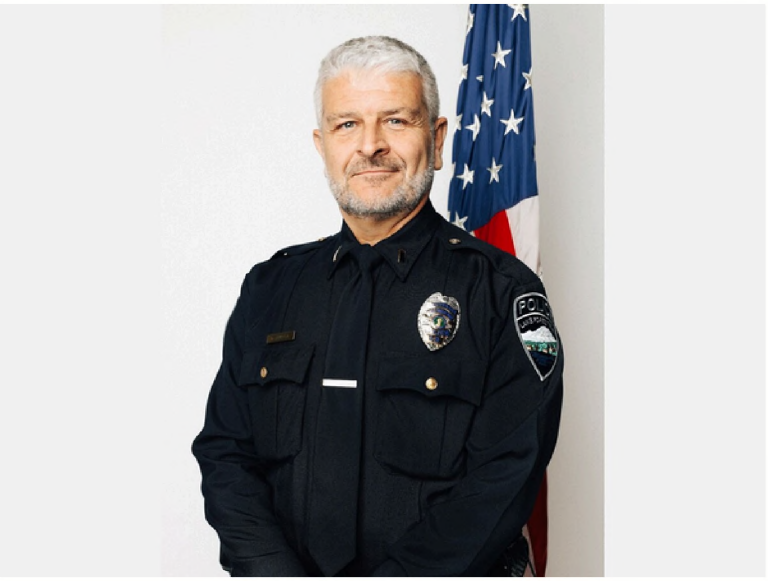


Ciarra Matthius
Undergraduate
Blume CJ Scholar



Darion Lamell
Graduate Blume
CJ Scholar
2025–26
SPD MCPP
Research Analyst

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Diego Zanella appointed Chief
of the Lake Forest Park Police Department



Bonnie Glenn confirmed as
OPA Director — November 19, 2025
and appointed to the
Seattle University Board of Regents

LOOKING AHEAD

BUILDING ON A YEAR OF RESEARCH, PARTNERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

EXPAND COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Develop new interdisciplinary and community-engaged research partnerships addressing emerging crime and justice challenges.

DEEPEN STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Create additional opportunities for students across Seattle University to participate in applied research, experiential learning, professional development, and community engagement.

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Build on the expertise of the Crime & Justice Advisory Committee and the Center's network of public, private, nonprofit, and community partners.

ADVANCE JUSTICE EDUCATION

Advance the Seattle University Prison Education for Rehabilitation and Reentry (SUPERR) and other initiatives connecting Seattle University with incarcerated communities.



Welcoming Seattle University Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Forensics incoming students, Fall 2026

WITH GRATITUDE

The Crime & Justice Research Center extends its appreciation to our students, alumni, faculty, staff, Advisory Committee members, community partners, funders, and donors whose expertise, service, and support make this work possible.