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I am a proud 1989 graduate of Georgia State University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, of the former College of Public and Urban Affairs. After graduation, I began a career in law enforcement spanning now almost thirty years. Most of that time I spent in Federal service, serving with the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Secret Service, and finally as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, retiring in 2016. I also served as a Police Officer in the early 1990s in Cobb County, and after retirement for a short time with the Johns Creek Police Department. I currently serve as a School Resource Officer for the Gwinnett County School Police Department, assigned to the investigation and analysis of threats county-wide.

Although I have served in supervisory roles, most of my time has been spent as a front-line officer or “street agent.” I have worked with many great colleagues along the way, and have seen first-hand many different aspects of the criminal justice system in the United States and elsewhere. One of the key benefits I received from my studies as GSU, under the guidance of Dr. Friedmann and others, is an appreciation of the system of criminal justice. Although certainly law enforcement benefits from membership coming in with a variety of academic backgrounds, I believe those that come into the career path with a criminal justice background usually have a greater appreciation of how they fit into the whole system of justice we work for, and how one can be most effective in getting that system to work most efficiently.

Another great benefit I received from my Criminal Justice education at GSU, without a doubt, was the opportunity to intern/co-op with criminal justice agencies. In my case, it gave me a stepping stone for employment, as I was hired as a Special Agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration after graduation, pursuant to my time in the DEA co-operative education program beginning in 1987. I also cannot understate what a great learning and networking experience my DEA co-op was, all the while earning academic credit.

For the aspiring law enforcement professional, the value of a Criminal Justice degree continues to be both relevant and useful. I highly recommend studies in Criminal Justice to help develop a complete, system-based view of the criminal justice system in the United States.

I have also participated in the Business Continuity Summit, offered by GSU through the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE), since my retirement. The summit provided an excellent opportunity to network with a variety of criminal justice professionals in the Atlanta area, as well as offer opportunities to remain current on criminal justice issues affecting our communities. This summit has been another great example of the continuing value my GSU education has provided me.