September 28, 2026

NCJTC Announces Leadership Transition and Names Janell Rasmussen as Executive Director

The National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) announces that Executive Director Brad Russ will retire from his executive leadership role after 30 years of dedicated service. Following a comprehensive succession planning process, NCJTC is proud to name Janell Rasmussen as Executive Director, effective immediately.

While transitioning from the Executive Director position, Brad will continue serving NCJTC in a different capacity through June 30, 2027, helping support key initiatives and ensuring continuity as the organization moves forward.

For three decades, Brad has been instrumental in building NCJTC into a trusted national resource for public safety and criminal justice professionals. Through his vision, steady leadership, and commitment to excellence, he helped shape the organization's mission and cultivate lasting partnerships across the country.

Fox Valley Technical College President Dr. Chris Matheny shared, *"Brad's vision and commitment have helped shape NCJTC into what it is today, and we are all grateful for the impact he has made on our staff, our partners, and the communities we serve."*

As NCJTC enters its next chapter, the organization remains well-positioned for continued success and impact under Rasmussen's leadership.

Rasmussen brings more than 25 years of experience in public safety, criminal justice, and national program leadership. Most recently serving as NCJTC Director and Administrator of the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program (AATTAP), she has led major initiatives supporting law enforcement, child protection, missing persons programs, and community safety efforts nationwide.

Prior to joining NCJTC, Rasmussen spent 16 years with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, where she helped establish and advance critical public safety programs, including Minnesota's AMBER Alert Program, and led the Bureau's Statewide Criminal Justice Training Center. Throughout her career, she has built strong partnerships among government agencies, nonprofit organizations, community stakeholders, and public safety professionals to improve outcomes for children, families, and communities.

She also brings extensive experience working in Tribal communities throughout Indian Country and with Alaska Native communities, supporting culturally responsive programs, strengthening partnerships, and advancing public safety initiatives that address the unique needs of Tribal nations and Indigenous populations.

"I am honored to serve as Executive Director and grateful for the strong foundation Brad and so many others have built over the past 30 years," said Rasmussen. *"NCJTC's success has always been rooted in the expertise, passion, and commitment of our staff, Associates, partners, and stakeholders. As we look ahead, I am excited to build on that legacy, strengthen our partnerships, and continue delivering innovative training and technical assistance that helps justice professionals meet the evolving needs of the communities they serve."*

Looking to the Future

While leadership is changing, NCJTC's mission remains unchanged. The organization will continue providing high-quality training, technical assistance, and support to criminal justice and public safety professionals across the nation.

Looking ahead, NCJTC is positioned to expand its impact through innovation, collaboration, and continued investment in the people and partnerships that drive its success. The organization will continue exploring new and innovative ways of doing business, adapting to an evolving environment, and ensuring it remains strong, relevant, and responsive to the needs of the justice professionals and communities it serves.

Partners and customers can expect a seamless transition and uninterrupted service as NCJTC builds upon three decades of excellence while positioning itself for the future.

For more information about NCJTC, visit www.ncjtc.org.

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