Each year, National Missing Children’s Day is observed on May 25 to encourage parents, guardians, caregivers, and others concerned with the well-being of children to make child safety a priority. The Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) Team is highlighting the National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC), a part of Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC), for its commitment to enhancing child safety through proactive training and technical assistance strategies.

The NCJTC administers OJJDP’s Missing and Exploited Children’s Training and Technical Assistance (MEC TTA) Program, which focuses on providing cutting-edge training and technical assistance related to child abuse and exploitation, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Using funds from a $3.6 million OJJDP award, this unique program equips practitioners in the field with the tools and skillsets they need to successfully investigate and recover missing and exploited children. Additionally, the MEC TTA Program provides logistical support to OJJDP for the National Missing Children’s Day Ceremony, which recognizes the extraordinary efforts of individuals, organizations, and agencies that have made a significant contribution to protecting children during the prior calendar year. This ceremony is held annually at the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. on the Wednesday before National Missing Children’s Day.

Using in-person and online learning technologies, the MEC TTA Program provides in-depth training on all investigative steps, including first response, evidence collection, witness and suspect interviews, medical examination, and prosecution. A primary goal of this program is to strengthen the multidisciplinary responses to cases of missing and exploited children by law enforcement agencies, child protection personnel, prosecutors, medical providers, tribal practitioners, and other child-serving professionals.

According to a FVTC 2018 impact study, the MEC TTA Program held 33 classes and trained over 1,500 attendees in several core areas focusing on investigations, forensic interviewing, and prevention. Most students in each training course reported that they shared the information from the training course with colleagues, which illustrates a broader impact. Additionally, the MEC TTA Program subawarded funds to four Regional Child Advocacy Centers (RCACs), which include the Northeastern, Western, Midwestern, and Southern regions. These RCACs helped FVTC by identifying unique training needs and providing targeted technical assistance for the respective regions. Collectively, the four RCACs trained over 14,000 people in 2018.

### Testimonials

**“This training gave me a significant amount of knowledge that helps me in each interview and how to more adequately and fully meet the needs of the children we serve.”**

Child Sex Trafficking Forensic Interview

**“I work for an advocacy agency, and the information received in the training has helped me to educate other systems and provide systems advocacy to better serve our victims and families.”**

Following the Evidence in Child Exploitation Cases