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Harr, S. (2007, Winter). Concordia's top ten reasons from top ten students. *Minnesota Police Journal*, 80(4), 42-43.

Concordia's Top Ten Reasons From Ten Top Students...

Having been hired seven years ago to design an all-online fully accredited college degree program for criminal justice practitioners trying to balance self, home, work and school, I'm frequently asked, "Why should I consider Concordia?" While I have my reasons (like, "I designed this program with you in mind!"), I asked some of our students to provide their reasons. ~Scott Harr, Concordia University Criminal Justice Chair

Darryl Winston

Captain, Milwaukee Police Department, Wisconsin

I selected Concordia St. Paul for my graduate studies because of the cost value, course structure for working adults, feedback from previous students and my initial contact with the staff who were genuinely excited about what they had to offer. I also recommend Concordia because of the school's focus and instructor support and availability.

Chuck Walerius

Captain, Owatonna Police Department, Minnesota

The main reason I chose Concordia University St. Paul to complete both my bachelor's and master's degrees was the quality of instruction received. I was not only able to obtain state of the art learning in my profession but also important life skills that I have implemented in my personal life too. I was able to learn the art of self-reflection and apply it to leadership in a way that enables me to better impact others. This program truly made me a life-long learner.

Ray Mattix

Sergeant (ret.), Burlison Police Department, Texas

The main reasons I chose Con-

cordia were the academic reputation of the university and the collaborative nature of the cohort delivery model. My decision was also influenced substantially by what past students told me about the program and how they were treated by faculty in their courses. This certainly proved to be true in my experience! One of my goals after police work was to teach college, which my degree from Concordia has allowed me to do at two different schools.

Jeff Beahen

Chief, Elk River Police Department, Minnesota

I chose Concordia to save time ... and time is money! I saved hundreds of hours not having to commute. In addition, they use real life practitioners as faculty who teach real life lessons from real life experiences. Concordia invests in each student and cares about their learning from beginning to the end ... and even beyond.

Jenni Walker

Director, Lawrence County Juvenile Boot Camp, Indiana

I attended Concordia initially because of the curriculum and accessibility, but ended up with so much more. One of the top reasons I recommend Concordia is because of the relationships between students and faculty. I found my cohort became more like a family by the time we graduated. In addition to helping me at work it helped me reach another goal of being able to teach college courses. The experience went beyond challenging me intellectually by enriching me spiritually and emotionally!

Eric Gieseke

*Captain, Burnsville Police Department, Minnesota
2003 MPPOA Police of the Year*

A primary reason for choosing Concordia was because a coworker highly recommended it. I viewed it as a tried and true program versus one that might not be around in the future or some fly by night operation that had not established any credibility. In other words, I wanted a degree from an established and respected university with ties to the community. Their unique schedule afforded me the opportunity to not abandon my life and family during school. I knew this program was what I was looking for; I was not disappointed. It is a high speed program and you can take as much from it as you want!

Mick Fichtl

Lieutenant, Collin County Sheriff's Office, Texas

I wanted a private school with a reputation like Concordia's. Learning is from reading, writing and projects, not testing; I didn't want to waste time trying to figure out what to memorize, I wanted to spend time working on skills I needed in my career. What I came away with included deep personal relationships with the other students and faculty. Concordia was the whole deal for me and helped me get promoted.

Megan Cole

Criminal Justice Department Chair, Brown College, Minnesota

I chose Concordia because the program provided me with the knowledge, skills and connections I needed to move forward in my career. The faculty has experience working in the field and openly shares it to enhance the curriculum. I would not be where I am today

without my education from Concordia; they helped me achieve my career goals.

Brian Tremper

*Sergeant, Oakland Police
Department, California*

*Chairperson of the National
Latino Peace Officers Association*

Flexibility. During one class for Concordia St. Paul, while a police officer in California, I was writing a paper referring to New England while I was in Costa Rica. I was able to travel, work, play and volunteer while completing a rigorous

adult centered program. All of the classes were designed with the criminal justice practitioner in mind and made the most of everyone's broad experiences to enrich each other's learning.

Erv Weinkauf

*Chief, New Ulm Police
Department, Minnesota*

Concordia's online learning was the best fit for me. The accelerated cohort program catered to the needs of the working law enforcement practitioner. It was affordable, flexible, and user friendly. It enabled

me to earn my degree and move toward my retirement job.

Admission does not require any testing and the admission fee will be waived for anyone hearing about the program from the *MPPOA Journal*. Further information can be obtained by contacting Criminal Justice Department Chair Scott Harr at harr@csp.edu or 651-603-6277 or department recruiter Mike Conner at conner@csp.edu or 651-641-8249 and by visiting www.csp.edu. ■

Concordia Criminal Justice Degrees Now Entirely Online

For the past seven years online criminal justice degree students have begun their programs by attending a several day on-campus "residency" to meet other students, faculty and learn the basics to get underway with the remaining classes all online. Students from greater Minnesota, out of state and Canada were required to attend with the associated costs.

In order to make Concordia's criminal justice BA and MA degrees even more accessible, students beginning through summer of 2008 will not be required to attend the on-campus residency because

the initial orientation to begin will be provided online. These fully accredited programs designed for returning adults who are working in the criminal justice field will now be entirely online from start to finish.

Because students who have attended the on-campus orientation have always reported it was a valuable experience, the virtual orientation will be reassessed at the end of this school year (June 2008) to determine whether there will be a return to the on-campus residency, keep the virtual orientation or have mixed or optional combinations.

But spring criminal justice bachelor's and master's degrees will be completely online.

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