ARIZONA FORENSIC SCIENCE ACADEMY

Presented at the AAFS 63rd Annual Meeting
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How did this start?
Arizona Forensic Services Advisory Committee

- Arizona Attorney General
- Recommended from DNA Committee
- Chair – Judge Ron Reinstein
AZ FAC Composition

- ALL Arizona crime lab directors
- Law Enforcement – Dept. of Public Safety, Sheriff and Police
- Prosecution
- Justice Project
- Medical Examiner
- Staffed by Attorney General and Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
AZ FAC Education Committee

• Chair – Attorney General Prosecutor

• Phoenix PD Crime Lab

• AZ Dept. of Public Safety

• ACJC
Academy Board

• Members of Education Committee
  – AZ Attorney General’s Office
  – Dept. of Public Safety Crime Laboratory
  – Phoenix Police Crime Laboratory

• Medical Examiner

• Director of Arizona Prosecutor’s Association

• Defense Bar Training Coordinator
Planning Effort

- Did we have all the right people?
- Who would be our class?
- How large?
- Where to hold?
- What cost?
- Who would be the faculty?
- What agency would administer?
- How would communication occur?
- Textbook?
Planning Effort Cont.

• Took 6 months
  – Board Meetings once a month
  – Email communication

• Timeline
  – 3 months out: Announcement
  – 2 months out: Notifications Made to Attendees
  – 1 month out: Tuition Payments Due
Important Considerations

- Continuing Education Credits for attendees
- Equal Opportunity for both prosecution and defense
- Involvement of the Judges
- Interactive Curriculum
- Length of Academy & Schedule
Materials

• **Reference Materials**
  - Predicate Questions
  - Executive Summary of NAS Report
  - Research on Forensic Science on the Internet (Cynthia Holt)
  - Joe Bono’s Article: *Forensic Science Needs a Lot Less Finger-Pointing and a Lot More Solutions*
  - Glossary of Terms

• **Binder**
  - Presenter Hand-outs
  - Topic Articles

• **Text**
  - Safferstein: *Introduction to Criminalistics, 10th Ed.*
Curriculum

• Scientific Foundation

• Forensic Disciplines

• Interactive Team Presentations

• Tours and Hands-on Practical Exercises
Curriculum Cont.

• Scientific Foundation
  – NAS Report and Panel Discussion
  – Scientific Method
  – Daubert in Arizona
Curriculum Cont.

• Forensic Disciplines
  – Crime Scene Response
  – Forensic Biology/DNA
  – Toxicology
  – Controlled Substances
  – Firearms
  – Trace
  – Arson
  – Trace
  – Questioned Documents
  – Latent Prints
  – Death Investigation
  – Digital Forensics
Curriculum Cont.

- **Team Presentations**
  - Moot Courts on Forensic Disciplines
  - Prosecution & Defense Teams
  - Fact Pattern: Scenario, Evidence, Results
  - Judges
  - Debrief
Curriculum Cont.

• Tours and Hands-on Practical Exercises
  – Phoenix Police Crime Laboratory
  – Maricopa County Medical Examiner
  – AZ Dept. Of Public Safety Crime Laboratory*
  – AZ Computer Forensic Laboratory*
  – National Clearing House for Science, Technology, and the Law
  – Book Fair

*Virtual Tours
Where are we now?

• Just finished Week 6
  – NAS, Scientific Method, CSR, Forensic Biology/DNA, Team Presentation, PPD Tour

• Successes:
  – Presenters, Participation, Tour

• Opportunities for Improvement:
  – Team Presentation
Looking to the Future…

• Evaluations

• Reporting back to AZ FAC

• Next Academy

• Expanding across the State
ARIZONA FORENSIC SCIENCE ACADEMY

Thank you!!!

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