

PSTC offers classes by top law enforcement professionals

The Johnson County Regional Police Academy has been housed on the

JCCC campus since 1972. And because police officers in Kansas are required to earn 40 hours of continuing education each year, it made perfect sense for a Public Safety Training Center, which offers CEUs to sworn police officers and other public safety officers, to locate at the Police Academy, which it did on Aug. 1, 2008.

PSTC program director Larry Able visited about 70 law enforcement agencies to research the types of classes needed by the profession in 2005 in advance of the Center's formal establishment. PSTC registration has grown steadily from 700 registrants in 2006-2007, to 1,100 in 2007-2008, to 1,300 in 2008-2009.

As of July 1, 19 local law enforcement agencies, including the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and most of the county's city police departments, have signed up as PSTC members, allowing reduced fees per class. Currently 60 to 80 classes per year are offered varying from two to 40 hours. Local and national experts serve as presenters.

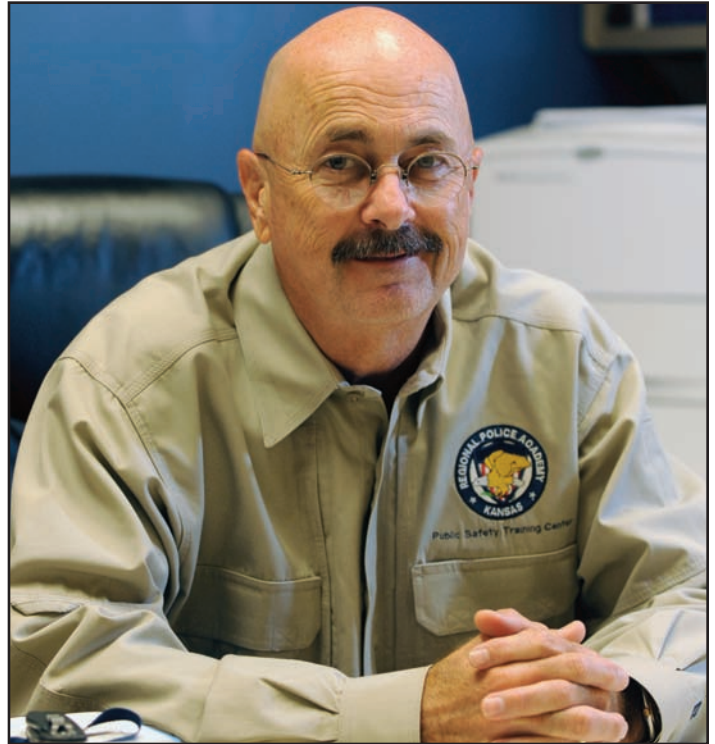
JCCC is able to offer a range of affordable, quality classes – everything from new Kansas laws presented by the Johnson County District Attorney's Office to TASER certification/recertification. In turn, local police officers can obtain their CEUs without overnight travel expenses or excessive time away from work.

However, the big winner in this program is the public as citizens' safety and rights are ensured through professional standards of law enforcement.

In a letter to Able, Chief Ellen Hanson, Lenexa Police Department, wrote, "You are providing a great service to area law enforcement agencies in a number of ways. One of the most important is that you are able to bring in speakers with national reputations that offer first-class and timely training. Most area agencies cannot afford to send many officers out of town and certainly could not sponsor this caliber of speaker on their own.

"A byproduct that is not as obvious is the service you provide to the citizens of Johnson County. By helping ensure that officers are well-trained, kept current on new laws, technology and trends, and exposed to some of the top people in law enforcement, you are helping to provide the high quality of police service that this county has come to expect."

Able credits the success of the PSTC to the law enforcement chiefs, who have embraced and supported the program.



As a sworn JCCC Police Officer, Larry Able, PSTC program director, knows the law enforcement field.

"We have top-flight law enforcement agencies in this county, and most of them provide their officers with even more than the 40 CEUs required by the state," Able said.

Able adds to his list of national speakers on Sept. 8 with John Giduck, Archangel Group's senior consultant and instructor, who arrived at Beslan Middle School No. 1 in North Ossetia, Russia, at the conclusion of the battle by Russian Special Forces to retake the school. Ret. Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, an author who has specialized in the study of the psychology of killing, and Ret. Lt. Col. Danny McKnight, portrayed by actor Tom Sizemore in the film *Black Hawk Down*, have both been PSTC speakers. Grossman is scheduled again in March 2010.

The PSTC also offers recertification for Emergency Medical Technicians and the Fire Service entrance exams. Classes for the 2009 fall semester are listed at the PSTC Web site; <http://www.jccc.edu/home/depts/1415>. For more information on classes, call Able at 913-469-8500, ext. 3988. To enroll, call 913-469-2323. **Im**