

Student Testimonials

- **Robert Morris, Plant Manager at Cargill**

SMSU's criminal justice program has changed what I thought I knew about the justice system. It shined a new light on policing all the way to the court system. My time spent going through the program really pushed me into thinking about the greater good of communities and how policing differently based on where you are located is key. The professors really get to know you personally and help you throughout your journey. Even though I am not in the Criminal Justice field I still attribute a lot of my success to the professors in the program. I work for Cargill as a plant manager overseeing two 110 rail car shuttle loaders in Kansas. We put through roughly 18 million bushels (approximately 1,044,000,000 pounds) of grain a year between the two of my assets, and we are grossing roughly \$2.5 million a year. Learning time management and leadership skills from this program has helped me even not being in the criminal justice field.

- **Jenny Jasper 2007**

The Justice Program at SMSU was such an enlightening experience for me. I expected to learn about crime and punishment in a very black and white way, instead, I was exposed to the many different angles of criminology. Because of the passion of professors like BC Franson and Bill Du Bois, I constantly find myself asking questions and looking for answers instead of taking things at face value.

- **Drake Zabloudil**

When asked what can you say about the Justice Administration program at SMSU, Drake Zabloudil said, "BC won't let you fail, she will work with you until you are done no matter how long it takes."

- **Victoria Brooks, Class of 2013**

My education experience at SMSU started and ended with the Justice Administration program. It is difficult to pat the program on the back without also acknowledging the justice and social science faculty for what they are and for what they put into the program; passion in their specialties, honesty in their teachings, and effectiveness in the process of collegiate education and graduating. From Intro, to Senior Seminar, the classroom experience wasn't JUST lecture and test taking... (Although there was plenty of that too!) I love that I was given opportunities to practice decision making, interviewing, conflict resolution and other skills in class, because it really proved to be beneficial and served as experience to add to my resume. After I graduated, I felt almost backwards... I spent all this time, money, and hours of studying investing in this little piece of paper, that didn't even come with a good job and guarantee attached. So, I began the search, and like a lot of other people, I explored other options not in the justice field because I didn't want to miss out on anything. Something I wish I would have done in that application process, was GIVE MYSELF AND MY EDUCATION MORE CREDIT. Education is experience! I was able to walk into the work place with my piece of paper and my knowledge, into an office full of retired police officers and keep up with them! When I say I brought so much of SMSU with me to the workplace, I mean I brought my best, most highest highs of both my successes AND the failures I had in the Justice Administration program. Successes that proved I was capable of more, and the failures that proved the same. I am able to utilize everyday things that were taught to me in my very first days in the SS building. I am comfortable in uncomfortable situations because I am confident in my knowledge and my skill set. I am prepared to interpret the details of twisted situations into a format ready to present to my peers. I am organized when tracking cases and people of all walks of life. I am now an Investigator, and I owe a lot of my accomplishments and effectiveness in the workplace to the peers I learned alongside, the tools and knowledge I received from my professors, and the expectations of what it means to fulfill both personal and professional opportunities there at SMSU.

Helping Students Reach Their Career Goals

The following example shows the commitment of faculty at SMSU. They get to know their students. They listen and help students get to their career goals, even after they graduate.

Leona R.:

Hey! So I was offered a paid position as a guardian ad litem for the state!! I have to accept soon. Do you think I can do it?

BC:

I know you can because she called me first and I told her how great you would be!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Leona R.:

You are the best! Thank you for the boost of confidence and always being there to help me achieve my dreams. Considering where I have come from and the struggle some days, I didn't think I would be able to achieve this at least for awhile. Your classes will definitely help me 😊