

Educating a new generation of heroes



Mark Logan
Area Chair Lead Faculty

Mark Logan has always had a passion for helping others. From serving on the Detroit police force to his career in the Department of Justice, he has dedicated his life to leading public safety and law enforcement efforts across the country.

Today he brings that leadership to University of Phoenix, where he serves as Area Chair Lead Faculty for the College of Criminal Justice and Security in North Virginia and Washington D.C. He strives to help working learners develop the skills they need to succeed in today's rapidly evolving security and criminal justice careers.

"Especially with the students who are working and going to school at the same time, we let them know these goals are achievable," he says. "Yes, it will take work but we're here to help you manage that work."

Baptism under fire

Logan never dreamed he'd grow up to work for law enforcement. "When I was in high school, I told people you couldn't pay me a million bucks to be a cop," he says. After a job in fast food, he moved on to a higher-paying job as a security guard. And that's where he discovered he had a call to protect and serve after all.

"I had a situation where a couple of guys wanted to rob this hamburger place where I was a security guard," he recalls. "I had to throw a guy through a window after taking a gun away from him and I shot the other guy in the shoulder. And lo and behold, it was the police who came to my rescue. That was my introduction to criminal justice."

That encounter inspired Logan to join the Detroit police force. After a lot of "gunfire, stolen cars and narcotics activity," Logan helped the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives identify a drug ring. Within days he received a phone call asking him to interview to join the Bureau as a special agent.

Ushering in a new era of security

While enjoying his new role, Logan noticed changes in the criminal justice field that shifted his focus to educating other security professionals.

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"I've been involved in a few significant investigations around the country and I wanted to share what I've learned," he says. "Our organizations are becoming learning organizations – more about sharing information, learning best practices and how to apply those best practices."

With that goal in mind, he moved into the role of Assistant Director for Training and Professional Development in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He was teaching graduate courses at George Washington University when a colleague told him about University of Phoenix. The idea of real-world curriculum and interactive teaching modalities appealed to him.

"I really believe in the facilitated style of teaching and helping students teach themselves," he says. "The benefit University of Phoenix offers is being able to apply what you learned the very next day."

Creating ambassadors for democracy

Logan encourages criminal justice professionals to advance their education. "The decisions that you're making require you to exhibit the traits of being a leader and an ambassador for this democracy," he points out. "My advice is to evaluate what you really want for your future."

Though active in multiple community and national organizations, he shrugs off the compliment when called a leader. "I just like to do the right thing and take care of people," he says. "I love helping other people develop and grow."

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