



Instructor Certification
In
Police Problem-Based Learning (PBL)
July 7 – 18, 2025
Saturday & Sunday July 12 & 13, 2025 – off
8:30 AM to Finish (varies daily)

PTO – Train the Trainer
Build Societal Trust through Adaptive Policing
Problem solving in partnership with your community stake holders

Develop a PTO Program - PTO 2.0 Update

The Police Training Officer program is a new model for post-academy field training in law enforcement. In this model recruits use problem-based learning to address neighborhood problems in partnership with the communities they serve. Problem-based learning is a recent development in police education and this program is the first time it has been used in such a fashion.

Become PBL certified and a trainer for the PTO field-training program

Learn "Police PBL" – the new version of PBL crafted specially for police educators by the instructors of this course. It is the basis of the US Department of Justice field training method - the **Police Training Officer (PTO) program** – which the instructor of this course co-created. You will be taught by the originators of this program not only how to teach and develop Police Training Officers, but how to incorporate PBL into all your police training from academy to advanced in-service.

A new standard in excellence for 21st Century teaching

In this course you will learn how to teach through a dynamic, and unique, new form of training - Problem-Based Learning (PBL). PBL is a state-of-the-art educational approach originally developed in medical schools. It is student-based and uses real-life problems to help students learn to solve problems and think in creative ways. PBL is emerging as the most dynamic and engaging form of learning for students of all types. This one of a kind, 10-day course is intensive, hands-on, and has been described as the most challenging, and satisfying, course in policing today.

Skills you will learn:

- Forming strategic alliances that promote and sustain community based problem-solving.
- How to use PBL to help students self-discover course material, take ownership of their own learning, enhance teaching and facilitation skills
- How to teach the Police Training Officer course and develop the new PTO.
- How to use the tools of Police PBL: the ill-structured problem, the cohort learning group, tutoring, and mentoring, emotional intelligence, and the evaluation rubric.
- Improve mental health by developing emotional intelligence and resiliency in your training.
- Learn about the childhood and lifelong trauma effects of ACEs, improve the ability to respond to persons in crisis, de-escalate situations, and build trust within communities.
- **How to help police recruits become confident, safe and ethical officers.**

Who should attend?

- Academic instructors, educators and managers in criminal justice and policing.
- Field training officers and patrol supervisors
- Stake holders in community-oriented policing.

Sponsored by:

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
MICKELSON CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING CENTER
1302 E. HIGHWAY 14, SUITE 5
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-8505

TRAINING FOR THE 21ST
CENTURY OFFICER

Location:

George S. Mickelson
Criminal Justice Center,
Law Enforcement Training
1302 Highway 14 East, Ste 5
Pierre, SD 57501

Classroom, lodging and
meals (weekday) all on-site.
Kitchen provided in
dormitory lounge.

Facilitators:

Gerry Cleveland: *Co-chair of the Police Society for Problem-Based Learning. Co-developer of the national PTO program and PBL Instructor Development certification for the U.S. Department of Justice. Internationally respected education specialist and former high school principal. For 18 years has consulted and taught using problem-based learning. He worked for 10 years as a police officer in Ontario. He has graduate degrees in Education and Law and currently practices law in Australia.*

Art Aplan: *Board member of the Police Society for Problem-Based Learning, state academy training coordinator and responsible for advanced law enforcement class coordination, firearms training and special project facilitation. He has developed a variety of programs to include armed school staff, active shooter response, pistol permit instructor training, and a variety of firearms related programs. He is a Problem Based Learning facilitator.*



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Course information

On successful completion of the course, candidates will become qualified to teach the PTO course, to create additional courses using PBL and teach other PBL designed police courses, and utilize best practices of adult education in law enforcement training.

This course will be a two-week session held at The Mickelson Criminal Justice Center in Pierre, South Dakota. The sessions will consist of 10 full days, with group assignments and work required of participants during evening hours. There is also an on-line pre-course assignment and a field exercise required prior to arrival at the course. Successful candidates will be certified PBL instructors joining an elite group of police educators centered at the Police Society for Problem-Based Learning.

As part of their in-class assignments, course candidates are asked to bring a copy of course curricula and training manuals for other police courses they already teach or have taken. Candidates will complete the pre-course assignment prior to the on-site course. They will present it during the first day of class.

Course includes materials, mentoring, academy lodging, weekday meals, and subsequent certification with the Police Society for Problem-Based Learning.

Cost

The cost for this course is \$3,500.00.

No charge for in-state law enforcement.

Dormitory lodging and weekday cafeteria meals included in course fee.

Applications accepted from law enforcement and related stake holders.

Preference period for South Dakota law enforcement is through June 1, 2025

All others enrolled at end of preference period.

Enrollment notification made via email.

[Application – Click here](#)

Division of Criminal Investigation, Law Enforcement Training
1302 Highway 14 East, Ste 5
Pierre, SD 57501



Location:

**George S. Mickelson
Criminal Justice Center,
Law Enforcement Training
1302 Highway 14 East, Ste 5
Pierre, SD 57501**

**On-Site accommodations
and weekday meals
provided.**



**Dormitory rooms include
private bath, internet,
refrigerator, and cable
television.**

**Registration through
Law Enforcement
Training.**



**Course Registration
Deadline: June 1, 2025**



**For more information
contact:**

Art Aplan

Training Coordinator

(605) 773-8457

Art.Aplan@state.sd.us

Or

Taunya O'Conner

at

(605)773-3584

Fax: (605)773-7203

Taunya.O'Conner@state.sd.us



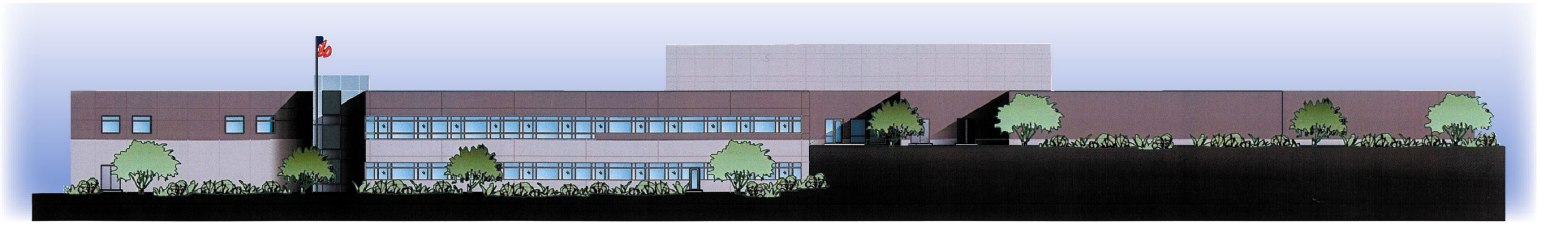
**REGISTER SOON:
Seating is very limited.**

**For more information
regarding the course
content:**

Gerry Cleveland

gerard.cleveland@gmail.com

www.pbl.org



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Law Enforcement Training
1302 Highway 14 East, Ste 5
Pierre, SD 57501

44°23'07.4"N 100°20'31.4"W

How to find us:

From Rapid City, South Dakota

Interstate 90 East - Highway 83 North

Travel east on Interstate 90 to Vivian, South Dakota, mile marker #212. Drive north on state highway 83 to Fort Pierre, South Dakota. Stay on Highway 83 crossing the river into Pierre, South Dakota. Turn right at the Federal building/Pierre Street. Drive north on Pierre Street/Highway 14/83 and it will turn into Euclid Avenue (a four-lane street). Drive north on Euclid Avenue and as you crest the hill at the edge of town, watch on your right for the Mickelson Criminal Justice Center.

From Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Interstate 90 West - Highway 83 North

Travel west on Interstate 90 to Vivian, South Dakota, mile marker #212. Drive north on state highway 83 to Fort Pierre, South Dakota. Stay on Highway 83 crossing the river into Pierre, South Dakota. Turn right at the Federal building/Pierre Street. Drive north on Pierre Street/Highway 14/83 and it will turn into Euclid Avenue (a four-lane street). Drive north on Euclid Avenue and as you crest the hill at the edge of town, watch on your right for the Mickelson Criminal Justice Center.

From Interstate 94 in North Dakota

Interstate 94

Travel on Interstate 94 to Sterling, North Dakota, mile marker #182. Take Highway 83 south to Pierre, South Dakota. At the Intersection of Highway 83 and 1804, turn left into the parking lot for the Mickelson Criminal Justice Center.

Directions from Pierre Airport

North Garfield Avenue - Highway 14/83

Take Airport Road towards Pierre. At the first traffic light, turn right onto North Garfield Avenue. Drive to the next intersection and turn left onto Highway 14/83. Drive towards Pierre on Highway 14/83, watching on your left for the Mickelson Criminal Justice Center. At the Intersection of Highway 83 and 1804, turn left into the parking lot.

Strip Map of Pierre Airport to Law Enforcement Training

