

## **Instructor Biography – Jim Kerry**

Jim Kerry is a veteran law enforcement professional and career and technical education instructor with more than 27 years of sworn law enforcement experience and a strong focus on youth instruction, mentoring, and career readiness. He has served as a Law Enforcement Instructor at Indian Valley Vocational Center (IVVC) since November 2022, where he teaches high school students foundational law enforcement concepts, professional standards, ethics, and decision-making skills aligned with public safety careers.

Jim retired from the Aurora Police Department in 2020 after a 27-year career that included assignments in the Patrol Division, Community Policing Unit, and Investigations Division. Throughout his career, he held numerous specialized roles that directly support effective youth instruction, including Field Training Officer, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officer, Street-level Evidence Technician, Public Information Officer, and Chaplain Program Liaison. His investigative experience includes service as a Certified Juvenile Officer and Certified Sexual Assault Investigator, providing him with extensive knowledge of youth-related issues, trauma-informed response, and ethical decision-making.

As an educator, Jim is committed to creating a safe, structured, and respectful learning environment that supports youth development and responsible decision-making. His instructional approach emphasizes professionalism, accountability, communication skills, and ethical conduct. He believes strongly in positive coaching and mentoring, helping students realistically assess their interests and abilities while developing the character traits necessary for public service careers.

Jim develops and delivers curriculum that incorporates real-world scenarios, critical thinking exercises, and discussions on ethics, officer safety, community relations, and mental health awareness. He collaborates with local law enforcement agencies to bring guest speakers and subject matter experts into the classroom, providing students with authentic exposure to the profession while reinforcing safety standards and best practices.

Jim holds an Associate of Arts degree in Psychology with a focus in Christian Counseling and has completed advanced coursework in police supervision through Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety. His certifications include Certified Illinois Police Officer, Certified Crisis Intervention Team Officer, Certified Field Training Officer, Certified Juvenile Specialist, Certified Sexual Assault Investigator, and American Heart Association CPR Instructor. He is an active member of LAPSEN (Law and Public Safety Education Network) and has contributed to national discussions on law enforcement career pipelines for youth.

Through his combined experience in policing and education, Jim Kerry demonstrates the professionalism, instructional competence, ethical leadership, and commitment to youth development expected of an IADLEST Certified Youth Instructor.