



University of New Haven

Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences
Criminal Justice Department

300 Boston Post Road
West Haven, CT 06516

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Dear Members of ACJS:

I am writing this letter to introduce myself and ask for your support in the upcoming election for 2nd Vice President. I have been an active member of ACJS for over 25 years, starting when I was a doctoral student at the University of Maryland in the mid-1990s. I am running for the position of 2nd Vice President to provide leadership at the national level, collaborate with the distinguished executive board and ACJS membership on advancing the field of criminal justice, and give back to an organization that has been instrumental in my career development.

During my academic career, I have placed balanced emphasis on teaching, research, and service. Beginning with service, my experience includes serving on all types of departmental, college, and university committees, while chairing many of them. I also have served in a number of administrative and leadership positions, including my current position as chair of one of the largest criminal justice departments in the country. Concerning ACJS and related disciplinary service, I have served in the following roles:

Editor, *ACJS Today* (4 years)

ACJS Public Policy Committee, Deputy Chair (1 year) and Chair (2 years)

Crime & Justice Research Alliance, Board Member (3 years)

ACJS Program Committee (4 years) and Membership Committee (1 year)

Manuscript Reviewer, *Justice Quarterly*, *Justice Evaluation Journal*, and *Journal of Criminal Justice Education* (numerous years with each ACJS journal)

NEACJS, Director at Large (2 years)

Association of Doctoral Programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Vice President (2 years), President (2 years), and Past President (current)

In addition to the above, throughout my career I have been engaged in community service and efforts to assist those less fortunate and privileged than me. This includes providing service to formal programs like Big Brothers Big Sisters and Communities That Care, along with coaching a variety of youth sports and mentoring young people during their educational and career development journeys. This has been time well spent, as helping others succeed brings a sense of fulfillment much stronger than winning personal awards or job promotions.

Concerning my teaching, I have taught more than 35 different courses at three universities, across the undergraduate, masters, and doctoral levels. I have advised and mentored hundreds of students, and I believe teaching and mentoring are the most rewarding aspects of our work, which also provide the most influence on the future of our discipline.

As a first-generation college student, I was fortunate to experience outstanding teaching and mentoring during my undergraduate and graduate education, and I consistently strive to deliver high quality educational experiences for my students. In doing so, I provide a wide range of learning activities both in and outside of the classroom, and I adjust my teaching to reflect the diverse and evolving needs of students. ACJS always has recognized the importance of teaching and mentoring, as well as providing educational opportunities to those most in need, which is a tradition I would like to continue and strengthen.

In the area of research and scholarship, my primary areas of interest have been juvenile justice, community corrections, and organizational development. I have authored or co-authored three books, numerous peer-reviewed journal articles, and a variety of book chapters and other professional publications. I frequently include students in my research and publish with them as coauthors. In addition, I regularly present at our national meeting and other national/regional conferences, engage in externally funded research, and complete collaborative research projects with criminal justice agencies and organizations. I also have served as editor of a number of publications, including *Criminal Justice Policy Review* (affiliated with NEACJS), *ACJS Today*, and *Routledge Studies in Juvenile Justice and Delinquency*.

Much of my research and scholarship has been devoted to advancing evidence-based approaches in criminal and juvenile justice. These efforts are a strong fit with the ACJS emphasis on connecting research to the field and developing researcher-practitioner partnerships, which I have done throughout my academic career. Furthermore, my applied research projects have included collaborative work with marginalized communities, through efforts to implement and evaluate crime and delinquency prevention programs and provide opportunities for behavioral success to disadvantaged and justice-involved citizens. This has been some of the most worthwhile work of my career, and an area in which ACJS can raise focus, understanding, and justice system improvement.

In sum, I believe my qualifications, experience, and desire to serve others will enable me to provide effective leadership on the ACJS executive board, eventually in the role of President, and advance our professional organization, the field of criminal justice, and our communities. A full vita and leadership philosophy statement can be found on my faculty webpage: <https://www.newhaven.edu/faculty-staff-profiles/david-myers.php> . If you would like to contact me directly, I can be reached at dmyers@newhaven.edu or 203-479-4883. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David L. Myers

David L. Myers, PhD

Professor and Chair

Department of Criminal Justice