About NW3C

NW3C has been in business for over 40 years. We started as The Leviticus Project Association in 1978 when a group of law enforcement agencies from seven states banded together to form a centrally coordinated multi-state investigative effort into a wide variety of crimes in the Appalachian coal fields. Through many successes, growth in membership, and expanded services, The Leviticus Project became the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) in 1992.

Since then, we have continued to evolve and expand our services to meet the needs of state and local law enforcement and regulatory agencies nationwide in the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of economic and high-tech crime.

Through grant funding from various federal agencies and unique alliances we have created with the federal government, state and local criminal justice agencies, and the private sector, we have been able to:

- Become a leader in the development and delivery of no-cost, high-quality, industry-leading training in criminal intelligence, digital evidence examination, digital forensics, economic crime, elder fraud, darknets and dark markets, intellectual property, investigating/prosecuting skilled offenders, technical investigations, technology training for prosecutors, virtual currency, and other related areas;

- Develop tools and implement strategies to help law enforcement combat technically sophisticated financial crimes and cybercrimes; and

- Offer training and support materials through classroom and live online training, online training, webinars, and investigative resources.

NW3C now has 6,200 member agencies in the United States and its territories, as well as 15 countries throughout the world.

This is our 24th year providing training, and since 1996, we have trained students from more than 36,000 different agencies across the country.

NW3C Project & Activity Summary
(10/1/19 – 9/30/20)

This has been another momentous year for NW3C as we once again exceeded all of our grant-related training and technical assistance deliverables. We continued to increase and diversify our funding sources, update course content, develop new classes, and adapt to the many changes brought on by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

While 2020 has had its share of challenges, it has also presented new opportunities for us to venture into new training areas and grow as a company. The pandemic has redefined the face of training and this year, we leveraged our technologies and successfully transitioned into a virtual environment in order to meet the needs of those we serve.

Through the federal grant funding awards we received this year from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Community Oriented Policing Services, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime, NW3C was able to deliver training to 115,861 students through all training modalities (in-person, live online, online training, and webinars), far exceeding training deliverables from past years.

We had a record year in terms of training numbers, as
well as exposure to new law enforcement personnel throughout the country. We now have over 95,000 active NW3C user accounts, we saw a significant increase in website traffic, which now averages 400,000 page views per month, and we added over 500 new social media followers.

NW3C was recently honored to receive the 2020 Open Source Non-Profit of the Year award given by the OSMOSIS Institute Board of Advisors. We were recognized as a non-profit whose visionary open source work has excelled in serving the organization’s mission and whose distinguished achievements have resulted in substantial progress toward improving society and human lives.

In-Person Classroom & Live Online Training Highlights

NW3C has been training criminal justice professionals for 24 years. We currently offer 26 in-person classroom and live online courses in the areas of cyber investigation, digital forensics, financial crime, intelligence, intellectual property theft, and legal courses for judges and prosecutors.

This year, we developed seven new classroom/live online training courses.

Earlier this year, NW3C completed development and testing of our live online training platform and began actively training in this new system. In only a few short months, our staff modified lectures and student resources and transitioned most of our in-person classes into live online classes. Today, we are delivering an average of nearly seven live online classes per week that are at maximum student capacity, with many students on a pending waitlist.

From October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020, we taught 233 classroom and live online courses and trained 7,682 students (2,237 via in-person/classroom training and 5,445 via live online training).

As we transition our training into the virtual world, we continue to acknowledge the value in conducting in-person training as some components of our technical training cannot be done virtually. Moving into the future, we see great benefit in pursuing a “hybrid” training model, delivering both in-person and live online training.

Webinar & On-Demand Webinar Highlights

This year, in an effort to further fulfill law enforcement’s training needs, we increased our live webinar offerings. We now have an established webinar program covering a variety of economic and high-tech crime topics led by industry experts that are well attended by criminal justice professionals across the U.S.

Since October of 2019, NW3C provided 72 live webinars, far exceeding past year’s webinar offerings. A total of 35,511 students attended our live webinar events, and 38,506 completed our on-demand webinars (totaling more than 74,000 students).

Online Training Highlights

As part of NW3C’s continuing effort to reach more law enforcement personnel, we continued to offer online training via our in-house learning management system.

We currently have 33 online training courses available. Many of our courses were updated this year and four new online training courses were developed.

From October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020, over 34,000 students completed our online training courses.

New this year, NW3C staff translated our Human Trafficking Awareness online course into Spanish and it is currently accessible on our website. We plan to translate additional courses to Spanish in the coming year.

Also new this year, we applied for, and received, national certification for the Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement (EAGLE) online course through the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST) National Certification Program. This program establishes minimum standards for vendors providing law enforcement continuing education and ensures the training content meets those quality standards.
Prosecutor & Judges Related Initiatives

NW3C continued to develop and deliver training specifically geared for prosecutors and judges. Our staff also continues to work through the process of applying for and obtaining Continuing Legal Education (CLE) approval for our training courses.

Next year we will introduce the new Prosecuting Attorney & Investigator Resource (PAIR) online resource for both investigators and prosecutors. This resource will provide a database of existing materials to assist prosecutors through the inception of a case to its conclusion and provide investigators one location where existing templates and information regarding legal process may be accessed.

Technical Assistance Highlights

Another one of our primary areas of service is technical assistance. We provide “on-site” (in-person at agency’s facility) and “off-site” (telephone, email, or website submission) technical assistance to help law enforcement with questions related to various law enforcement efforts in our area of expertise.

Earlier this year we upgraded our website for users to more easily submit online technical assistance requests. In recent months, we implemented online video chatting to further assist in continuing technical assistance efforts.

From October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020, we completed 349 (250 off-site, 99 on-site) requests for technical assistance. NW3C staff also provided an additional 99 presentations such as workshops and panel participation for over 9,000 attendees at various conferences, seminars and meetings throughout the year.

One notable technical assistance example from this year is NW3C’s support to seven states (Colorado, Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, Utah, Wisconsin, and Illinois) related to the recent BlueLeaks Data Breach. NW3C assisted the states in assessing their damage/exposure and providing them the accounts and the documents related to their agencies found in the breach data.

Another notable accomplishment is the highly successful Capture the Flag Challenges we developed in-house and introduced this year. These challenges offered an innovative and fun learning experience for law enforcement, while also providing ongoing technical assistance. The challenges use free open source tools that run on the three major operating system platforms and presents questions for digital forensics and incident response that the user must solve. Since implementation in March 2020, we have had over 900 registered users from all 50 states who have submitted nearly 24,000 answers in response to over 120 unique challenges developed by the NW3C team. To sustain the program, NW3C will be providing quarterly challenges in the future.

Resources

As part of our BJA grant deliverables, NW3C continued to lead the Law Enforcement Cyber Center (LECC) initiative with project partners, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). The partners manage the LECC website, a national resource for law enforcement and related justice and public safety entities. The LECC contains cyber-related information to enhance the awareness, expand the education, and build the capacity of criminal justice personnel to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and respond to cyber threats and cybercrime. Monthly page views to this resource site average 16,000 per month.

Also as part of our BJA grant deliverables, NW3C developed and continues to maintain the Intellectual Property Theft Resource website, which provides a common place for Intellectual Property Enforcement Program grantees and law enforcement to find training, resources, and technical assistance to aid in their IP investigations.
This year we also made a concerted effort to enhance the investigative resources we have available for law enforcement. The resources on the NW3C website were accessed over 21,000 times this year.

A sample of investigative resources currently available on our website include:

- Legal Templates
- Law Enforcement Tools & Guides
- Intellectual Property templates
- INFOSEC/OPSEC/PERSEC
- Investigative Guides and Resources on developing policy, Interpol Guidelines NDCAC Guides, Real Time and Open Source Analysis Resources
- Model Cryptocurrency Policy
- Law Enforcement Cyber Alerts
- White Papers
- Mobile Guides on Bitcoin and Intellectual Property

**Partnership Highlights**

The success of NW3C has been due in no small part to our ability to partner with other organizations, universities, and vendors who share our goal of supporting state and local law enforcement. This year, NW3C continued many successful ongoing partnerships and also entered into some new strategic partnerships.

We continued our partnership with the **District Attorney of New York County (DANY)** to provide annual training through the NW3C/DANY Cyber Academy. This private partnership is now into a decade of success and continues to grow.

We maintained a working relationship with our longstanding partner, the **Safe Surfing’ Foundation**, to collaborate on the Cyber S.W.A.T.™ (Safety While Accessing Technology) project, a program working with school resource officers throughout the country to educate and protect children from crime and exploitation on the internet. In addition, NW3C received funding from the **Craig Newmark Philanthropies** to partner with the Safe Surfing’ Foundation to provide ongoing operation and site expansion of the Cyber S.W.A.T. program.

NW3C and the **FINRA Investor Education Foundation** have been training partners for nine years. This year, four Targeting Investment Fraud training classes were completed, and **124 students** were trained.

We worked with the **Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS)** to co-brand several webinars and also collaborated on the development of the COVID-19: Global Pandemic Scams and Fraud online training course.

We have also maintained many of our existing partnerships with law enforcement agencies such as Indiana State Police, Virginia State Police, and West Virginia State Police, as well as academic institutions including West Virginia University, Purdue University, Indiana University, Liberty University, Champlain College Cyber Security and Digital Forensics Center, and Florida International University, among others.

This year we established an important partnership with the **National Native American Law Enforcement Association (NNALEA)**, with the goal of promoting and providing training to Native American law enforcement nationwide. NW3C partnered with NNALEA on a BJA Stop School Violence grant submission, and the two organizations are also collaborating to implement the Cyber S.W.A.T. (Safety While Accessing Technology) program into several tribal schools.

Also, new strategic partnerships were established with the International Association of Financial Crime Investigators (IAFCI), International Police Association (IPA), National Domestic Communications Assistance Center, E-Pay Resources, and the National Cyber Security Alliance, and others.

**NW3C Certification Program**

NW3C now offers professional certifications for criminal justice personnel. This program has been a huge success this year. We currently offer three certifications:

- Certified Economic Crime Forensic Examiner (CECFE)
- Certified Cyber Crime Examiner (3CE)
- Certified Cyber Crime Investigator (3CI)
To date, we have granted over 500 certifications.

We are excited to note that we developed a relationship with Homeland Security Investigations to get 225 individuals in their agency certified in 2020. We look forward to developing a similar relationship with agencies in the future.

**Plans for 2021**

Moving into 2021, our strategic focus will be to:

01. Continue meeting the needs of criminal justice professionals;

02. Prioritize efforts to develop and deliver cutting-edge training;

03. Focus on quality, innovation, and superior products; and

04. Diversify our revenue and funding sources.

NW3C recently received several new funding awards. Some of the new training initiatives for 2021 will involve:

- Providing training and technical assistance for northern and middle states rural law enforcement;

- Developing and delivering training for law enforcement to improve identification of and response to elder fraud victims;

- Providing training and technical assistance for law enforcement related to human trafficking;

- Developing training and resources focusing on officer wellness to support law enforcement; and

- Developing and delivering more intermediate and advanced cyber investigations training.