

Sauk Valley Community College
July 25, 2022

Action Item 4.2

Topic: Administrator Appointment – Director of the SVCC Police Academy

Strategic Direction: Goal 1, Objective 7 – The College partners with local agencies to encourage the economic development of the region.

Presented by: Dr. David Hellmich and Dr. Jon Mandrell

Presentation:

The administration has been in the process of hiring a Director of the SVCC Police Academy. The position was advertised on-line on Sauk Valley Community College’s website, *Glassdoor.com*, *Indeed.com*, and in Sauk Valley Media (the *Dixon Telegraph* and the *Daily Gazette*). The College received five applications; three candidates were invited to interview. A committee was composed of Dr. Stephen Miko, Kyle Kellen, Meagan Rivera, David Pilgrim (Rock Falls Police Department), and Kris Brantley (Northridge Properties). Dr. Jon Mandrell, Vice President of Academics and Student Services, served as Chair.

Academic background: Jason LaMendola graduated from Beloit College with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Government and Sociology.

Professional background: Jason has been an employee of the City of Dixon for twenty-five years as a Patrol Supervisor Sergeant, Field Staff Instructor, SWAT Team Leader, School Resource Officer, and ILEAS Region 2 WMD SWAT Team Leader.

Recommendation:

The administration recommends the Board approve the appointment of Jason LaMendola as the Director of the SVCC Police Academy beginning August 8, 2022, at an annual base salary of \$72,883.20.

Jason J. LaMendola

Dr. Jon Mandrell
Vice President of Academics and Student Services
Sauk Valley Community College

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the Director of the SVCC Police Academy. It is clear that you are looking for a candidate that is extremely familiar with instructing, coaching, leading and networking; I am certain I have the necessary skills to be successful in this role and perform above expectations. I would love the opportunity to work as part of your team in leading this amazing endeavor

I am an adaptable professional who has been consistently praised as a leader and instructor by my co-workers and superiors. Over the course of my 25-year career, I have developed a skill set directly relevant to this role. I have enthusiastically taken on a wide variety of roles, including certified instructor for A.L.I.C.E., Gracie Survival Tactics (Jiu Jitsu), Rescue Task Force, and School Resource Officer for 8 years. I am privileged to be trusted with the team leader position for our multi-agency tactical response team, a very high liability role. My training and experiences were recently recognized by the Illinois Fire Service Institute when they asked me to serve as Field Staff Instructor for their critical incident management courses. I have also been able to give back to our community by implementing related training programs for local businesses and churches regarding active shooter response and incident management.

During my career, I have responded to critical incidents as a patrol officer, detective, sergeant, and SWAT team leader. I have worked cooperatively and developed relationships with multi-agency teams through the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm Systems (ILEAS) and our own Lee County Joint Operations Group. From responding to New Orleans following hurricane Katrina as a task force team leader, our own active shooter incident at Dixon High School or SWAT team call-outs, I have gained leadership and management skills from various scales. First hand, real world experience is unmatched as a learning tool and I am eager to learn from your team as well as to share with those you serve.

Whether it is coaching high school sports or leading a team of strong-minded tactical operators into life threatening situations, I have the personality, skill set and strategic mindset you are looking for. My resume is attached for your review. I firmly believe I would be an asset to your team and I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason LaMendola

Jason J. LaMendola

Professional Statement

I am an adaptable professional who has been consistently praised as a leader and instructor by my colleagues and superiors. During my career I have responded to critical incidents as a patrol officer, detective, sergeant, and SWAT team leader. I have worked cooperatively with multi-agency teams through Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm Systems and Lee County Joint Operations Group. I have developed training programs and instructed local schools and businesses on safety and critical incident response. I currently instruct police, fire and school districts across the State in active shooter incident management.

Certifications

- **Gracie Survival Tactics Level 2 Instructor**
- **A.L.I.C.E. Active Shooter Response Instructor**
- **Rescue Task Force Instructor**
- **Less Lethal Instructor**
- **SCUBA Dive/Rescue/Evidence Recovery Certified**
- **Advanced Interview and Interrogation, Wicklander/Zulawski and CTK Group**

Employment Highlights

Sergeant, Patrol Supervisor - 10/2014 to Current
City of Dixon - Dixon, Illinois

Field Staff Instructor - 02/2022 to Current
Illinois Fire Service Institute

- Instructor for the Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM) and Safe Schools Active Violence Incident Management (SSAVIM) Courses.

SWAT Team Leader - 01/2019 to Current
Dixon Police Department - Dixon Illinois

School Resource Officer - 09/2006 to 10/20014

ILEAS Region 2 WMD SWAT Team Leader - 01/2002 to 08/2006

- Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm Systems multi-agency team created primarily to respond to terrorist attacks involving hazardous materials and a human threat.

Education

Beloit College - Beloit, WI - Bachelor of Arts
Double Major, Government/Sociology - 1995