

For Immediate Release

The Opioid Epidemic & Advocacy Communities

Plymouth County District Attorney Tim Cruz leads discussions at Quincy College at Plymouth as part of the new Criminal Justice Speaker Series

Press Release Overview

- Quote from Plymouth County District Attorney
- Quote from Matthew Delaney, Leader of Quincy College Speaker Series and Criminal Justice Faculty
- February 6, 2019 Event Details
- Quincy College Speaker Series Details



Suggested Caption:

L to R: Quincy Criminal Justice Professor [Matthew Delaney](#) who organized the Criminal Justice Speaker Series; Plymouth County District Attorney Tim Cruz, and Quincy College President Michael Bellotti at the Quincy College Criminal Justice Speaker Series held on Wednesday, February 6, 2019. (*Img_6991.jpg*) *Image Credit: Quincy College*

Plymouth, MA (2/15/2019):

Plymouth County District Attorney Tim Cruz kicked off the first of a monthly Quincy College Criminal Justice Speaker Series. Cruz spoke about the opioid epidemic and advocacy communities, reflecting on the innovative approaches that the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office has collaborated with local law enforcement, community organizations, individuals within the community, and educational institutions from elementary school to higher education.

The event was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 from 6:00pm-7:00pm at the Krovitz Library on the Plymouth Campus located at 36 Cordage Park Circle, Plymouth, MA, 02360. Quincy College President Michael Bellotti introduced District Attorney Tim Cruz during the speaker series. Cruz addressed a standing-room only crowd of over seventy Quincy College staff, faculty, and students and the presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

Since 2001, Tim Cruz has been the District Attorney of Plymouth County. The Drug Abuse Task Force brings law enforcement, the medical community, educators and substance abuse experts together to share information and track the current trends of the opiate epidemic. Out of the task force emerged Plymouth County Outreach (PCO), the county-wide program designed to reach overdose victims and their families and get them support and services. State Police Detectives in DA Cruz's Office have secured a manslaughter conviction against a defendant who supplied the drugs in a fatal overdose, and DA Cruz helped implement drug court sessions in all of the Plymouth County district courts.

DA Cruz is the chairman of the Plymouth County Drug Abuse Task Force, an effort to engage all community sectors to work on the opioid issue. Cruz elaborated on how these efforts sought to address the opioid issue.

The Plymouth County Drug Abuse Task Force missions is to: "...build capacity for the county to deal with the opioid crisis, reduce the demand for opioids via education, and reduce supply and accessibility by working with law enforcement. Also, at the time time, working outside the box for treatment options. We took what we learned from domestic violence and gang violence, and tied it to our efforts with the opioid crisis."

In the schools, DA Cruz has worked to help children directly impacted by substance use in the family by supporting and implementing the Adverse Childhood Experiences curriculum. He cohosts a show called "Breaking the Cycle" with Plymouth County Sheriff Joseph McDonald on PACTV, which discusses the drug and opioid epidemic, and has backed Drug Story Theater, which brings education to the middle and high schools.

At the Quincy College Criminal Justice Speaker Series, DA Cruz also spoke about the role of education in fighting the opioid crisis and not just educating those who are directly working with students: " We trained everyone from the administrators and teachers to the custodians."

The February 6th event is the first of a monthly series of Criminal Justice guest speaking engagements that will be held on the Plymouth Campus.

" The Criminal Justice field is changing. We are law enforcers, community resources, human service collaborators, supporting community discussions and problem solving as criminal justice leaders. At Quincy College, we are developing interdisciplinary ways to educate the next generation of criminal justice professionals. The Quincy College Criminal Justice Speaker Series will bring varied viewpoints, discussions, and opportunities to the Quincy College community that will surely impact our work in our shared communities," Matthew Delaney, Criminal Justice Professor, Quincy College at Plymouth.

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ABOUT QUINCY COLLEGE

Founded in 1958, Quincy College is a two-year, municipally affiliated community college serving approximately 4,000 students at campuses located in Quincy and Plymouth, Massachusetts. Quincy College is an open access institution that encourages academic achievement and excellence, diversity, economic opportunity, community involvement, and lifelong learning. The College facilitates valuable learning relationships that inspire students to realize their educational and professional futures. The college offers 34 associate degree programs and 24 certificate programs in a variety of disciplines, including those within Professional Programs, Liberal Arts, and Natural & Health Sciences. The college is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and is

licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to grant the degrees of Associate in Arts and Associate in Science. The college draws a diversity of students from the greater Boston area as well as 121 countries around the world. For additional information, visit www.quincycollege.edu

Media Contact:

Taggart Boyle
Associate Vice President, Communications and Marketing
617-984-1617
tboyle@quincycollege.edu

Katy Spencer Johnson
Communications and Marketing Specialist
617-984-1759
kjohnson@quincycollege.edu