

CSI-KC High School Students Unit program teaches high school students forensic science

Students get to uncover crime

BY: Alyson Bruner (mailto:alyson.bruner@kshb.com)

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. - A six-week program, CSI-KC High School Students Unit (HSSU), is being implemented at area high schools in the Third City Council District, Lincoln College Preparatory Academy and Central Academy of Excellence High School. It began March 24 and concludes April 30.

The program features a combination of guest speaker presentations from the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department's Crime Lab, Kansas City-area colleges with forensic science and criminal justice degree (two- and four-year) programs, related criminal justice careers and hands-on forensic exercises.

High school students learned to observe and record data, think critically and conduct tests to solve crimes such as theft, vandalism, rape investigations and unexplained deaths. Forensic exercises covered in the program will include finger print identification, blood stain analysis, chemical analysis and evidence collection.

KCPD Crime Lab Director Linda Netzel said, "Being able to give back to our community is important for the crime laboratory staff. The nature of our job makes our impact rather invisible to the general public, but informing people about what we do is a rewarding way to give back. It is never more rewarding than when we work with kids who have a genuine interest in science."

One of the highlighted, hands-on activities being coordinated by KCPD Crime Lab Director Linda Netzel and her staff is a mock crime scene and workshop at the current Crime Lab facility located at 6633 Troost, combined with a student tour of the lab.

Students will be asked to investigate and solve a "crime" using the available lab tools. This mock activity will take place on two days, Wednesday, April 22, with Lincoln students and on Thursday, April 23, for Central students, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

Alyson Bruner can be reached at alyson.bruner@kshb.com

(mailto:alyson.bruner@kshb.com) .

You can also follow her on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/AlysonBruner>) .

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