



CITY OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pullman PD and Washington State University Receive 2021 Smart 50 Award

Pullman – The Research Fellowship Program, a joint venture between the Pullman Police Department (PPD) and Washington State University (WSU), has been recognized as one of the top 50 innovative and influential projects on an international scale. Smart 50 Awards, in partnership with Smart Cities Connect, Smart Cities Connect Foundation, & US Ignite, recognize global smart cities projects each year, honoring the most innovative and influential work.

A collaboration between PPD Chief Gary Jenkins and Dr. David. A. Makin of the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC) in the College of Arts and Sciences at WSU, resulted in the development of a unique research fellowship program. The Public Safety Fellowship allows the Pullman Police Department to leverage the research expertise within the CJC, while affording a doctoral student a unique opportunity to work on applied research projects.

While the vast majority law enforcement agencies in the U.S. serve populations of less than 100,000, much of the research centered around law enforcement is conducted of larger agencies, primarily for the benefit of other large law enforcement agencies. That research is many times not applicable or easily translatable to the smaller agencies. The Research Fellowship program provides a model that not only serves to benefit the majority of law enforcement agencies in the U.S., but which also trains a new generation of researchers to conduct basic and applied research that is uniquely tailored to the local context.

The first six months of the Fellowship produced a range of deliverables for the PPD, including participation in a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of a new municipal court; research briefs on evidence-based practices associated with domestic violence; a needs assessment related to implementation of a traffic camera system, which led to a conclusive determination for the city; a grant proposal to the National Institute of Justice to examine the use and effectiveness of de-escalation within police-citizen interactions; and a proposal to the Community Policing Development Microgrants Program to improve officer safety and wellness. Ongoing projects include research to determine optimal free patrol time and officer-initiated activity; suitability analysis for a Mental Health Field Response Program; identification of evidence-based practices to improve officer wellness, as contextually relevant to the Pullman Police Department; and a long-term project to develop contextually relevant training by converting body-worn camera footage into virtual reality scenarios, which the agency believes will improve training.

For more about the Smart 50 Award, including a complete list of 2021 recipients, please visit:

<https://fall.smartcitiesconnect.org/Smart50Awards/>

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