

## New & Noteworthy



### NIJ's New Acting Director

Julie E. Samuels was appointed by Attorney General Janet Reno in April to be the Acting Director of NIJ after Jeremy Travis left the position to join the Urban Institute. (See *NIJ Journal*, April 2000, "Departing Thoughts From an NIJ Director," p. 22.)

Ms. Samuels has served in many capacities since she joined the Department of Justice in 1979, primarily with the Criminal Division. Most recently, she served as Director for Policy of the division's Office of Policy and Legislation.

Her office has participated in many of the Department's initiatives to reduce violent crime, counter illegal drugs, improve justice in Indian Country, and investigate transnational crimes. Over the years, Ms. Samuels has worked closely with the Office of Justice Programs on a variety of projects and has been a strong advocate for using research and data to inform criminal justice

policy and practice at all levels of government.

At NIJ, she plans to continue the Institute's commitment to science and to supporting independent and high-quality research. She particularly looks forward to the challenge of translating research investments into useful knowledge for the field of practitioners and policymakers.

Ms. Samuels has been involved with many special projects at the Department of Justice, including the Secretariat for the Chemical Action Task Force, which was created to ensure that precursor and essential chemicals were not diverted to manufacture illicit drugs. She was also Director of the Police Hiring Task Force, which established the \$150 million Police Hiring Supplement Program that was the pilot for the subsequent COPS program.

Ms. Samuels taught a summer seminar for Duke University's Institute of Policy Sciences and Public Affairs (1989-91). She graduated magna cum laude from Brown University with an A.B. in political science and received a Masters of Public Policy from the University of California at Berkeley Graduate School of Public Policy.

### Experiment Demonstrates How to Hold Batters Accountable

Research has not yet shown definitively which approaches work best to prevent domestic violence offenders from reoffending, but court mandates for batterer intervention, swift and certain sanctions, and collaborative strategies appear to be promising.

To test one approach about what works to prevent domestic violence, NIJ and the Violence Against Women Office (VAWO) are sponsoring a demonstration project designed to hold domestic violence offenders accountable through intensive judicial supervision.

The project, called the Judicial Oversight Demonstration Initiative, involves building on a community's existing coordinated response system for offenders and victims. For offenders, components of the initiative include intense supervision by the judge, graduated sanctions, and participation in batterer intervention programs. For victims, advocacy and other domestic violence services will be enhanced.

From 12 sites that competed to participate in the demonstration, 3 were selected: Boston, Milwaukee, and Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor). Each site will receive up to \$2 million for an initial 18 months of program activities. Depending on congressional funding, the sites will receive comparable financial support for the duration of the 5-year effort.

Technical support is being provided by the Vera Institute of Justice; a rigorous multisite evaluation is being conducted by the Urban Institute.

For more information, contact Angela Moore Parmley at NIJ (202-307-0145, [parmleya@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:parmleya@ojp.usdoj.gov)) or Ed Seighman at the Violence Against Women Office (202-305-2649, [seighman@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:seighman@ojp.usdoj.gov)).

## Initiatives in Indian Country

Communities in Indian Country have a unique relationship with the Federal Government and its law enforcement agencies. The Departments of Justice and Interior have initiated an effort to address the compelling need for improved law enforcement and the administration of criminal and juvenile justice in Indian Country.

NIJ, which is supporting research on various aspects of law enforcement and criminal justice in Indian Country, participated in a series of regional meetings with tribal leaders, representatives of tribal justice systems, tribal practitioners, researchers, and representatives of Federal agencies. Participants exchanged information about promising practices and shared strategies on alcohol and substance abuse programs serving American Indian and Alaska Native people.

In a related effort, proposals have been received from parties interested in conducting a participatory evaluation of the Comprehensive Indian Resources for Community and Law Enforcement (CIRCLE) project. A 3-year comprehensive Federal initiative, CIRCLE is designed to empower Native American communities to more effectively fight crime, violence, and substance abuse. Announcement of the awards is expected this fall.

For more information about NIJ's research portfolio on Indian Country, contact Winnie Reed at 202-307-2952, [winnie@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:winnie@ojp.usdoj.gov).

For more information about other Office of Justice Programs activities in Indian Country, contact Norena Henry at 202-616-3205, [henry@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:henry@ojp.usdoj.gov).

## Rural and Small Technology Center Opens in Hazard, Kentucky

The regional National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Centers (NLECTC) will soon have a new component. Congress recently directed NIJ to begin work on the Rural Law Enforcement Training and Technology Center in Hazard, Kentucky.

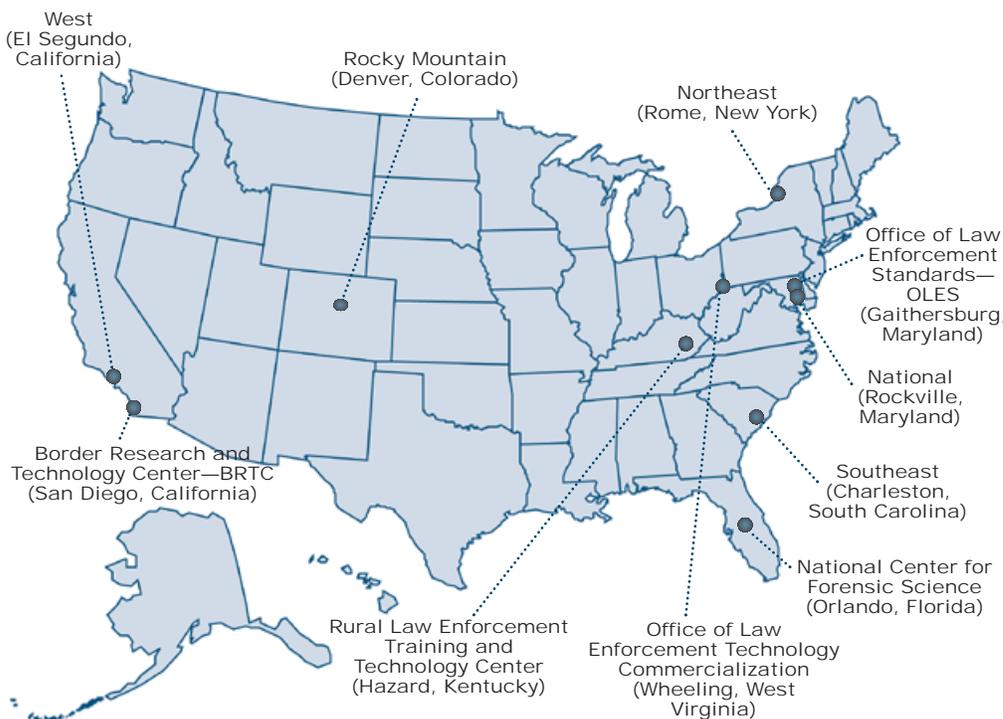
NIJ Deputy Director David Boyd joined Representative Harold Rogers (R-KY) and FBI Director Louis Freeh at the ground-breaking ceremony on April 27. The Center will focus on technologies for rural and small agencies and will contain a distance learning lab, a driving simulator, a firearms simulator, a global information systems training and tracking system, and teleconferencing and video production facilities. The Hazard Center is expected to be open for business in fall 2000.

The NLECTC system responds to the needs of State and local agencies for the latest research and development and technology assistance. The Centers identify technologies that meet specific requirements, assist in the introduction and demonstration of new technologies, disseminate information, provide advice and technical assistance, and help commercialize technologies.

Despite the individual specialties of each Center, the facilities work together to form a seamless web of support, technology development, and information.

For more information, visit the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center at <http://www.nlectc.org>, or contact Marc Caplan, 202-307-2956, [caplanm@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:caplanm@ojp.usdoj.gov).

Figure 1: NIJ's Regional Technology Centers



Visit <http://www.nlectc.org> or call 1-800-248-2742.

### ADAM Holds Its 4th Annual Meeting



For the past 4 years, NIJ has sponsored an annual ADAM conference where participants can share ideas, exchange solutions to mutual problems, converse about topics of interest to the larger community of drug researchers, and strengthen their networks with others who are doing similar work.

For 2 days last May, 190 ADAM site directors, researchers, and government policymakers gathered at the 4th Annual ADAM Conference.

This year's conference featured presentations on ADAM trend data, the newly fielded ADAM interview instrument, and probability-based sampling plans. In addition, several workshops and roundtable discussions were held on local coordinating councils; local partnerships; juvenile instrumentation and data collection; gang, firearm, domestic violence, and HIV/AIDS instrumentation and data collection; supplemental funding opportunities; outreach data collection; NIJ research and evaluation grants; crime mapping research; drug testing technology; and the international ADAM program.

For more information, visit the ADAM Web site at <http://www.Adam-NIJ.net>, or contact Bruce Taylor, Deputy Director, 202-305-1764.

### Technology Fair Draws Crowd on Capitol Hill

For 3 years, NIJ has been called upon to conduct a technology fair

for Members of Congress and their staff. This year's event took place May 24-25 in the Rayburn House Office Building.

Congressman Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) sponsored the 2-day event, which showcased the latest developments in law enforcement and corrections technology. In conjunction with the technology fair, staff from the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Centers briefed Members of Congress and their staff on the operations of the Center system.

Technologies on display included devices, equipment, and techniques related to video and audio enhancements; less-than-lethal approaches; equipment to protect officers; DNA testing; explosives detection and remediation; communications interoperability; counterterrorism; concealed weapons detection; and computer forensics.

### UN Congress Stimulates Global Networks



The globalization of crime increasingly makes U.S. efforts to combat it an urgent priority, and international cooperation is a major element in these efforts. As part of its outreach to the international criminal justice community, NIJ participated in April in the 10th United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Congress—which is held every 5 years—took place in Vienna, Austria. The major themes of the Congress were transnational

organized crime, promoting the rule of law, combating corruption, community crime prevention, the role of women in the criminal justice system, and cybercrime.

Staff from NIJ, along with representatives from the Departments of Justice and State, comprised the official U.S. delegation. A particular focus of the NIJ participants was to urge UN member states to engage in more rigorous evaluation of crime prevention programs to assess effectiveness and to expand the use of restorative justice. NIJ displayed a variety of materials on U.S. crime research and arranged a panel presentation dealing with women as victims and survivors of abuse and crime. The aim of the panel was to sensitize the attendees to the importance of confronting global problems such as trafficking in women and girls.

NIJ's participation in international activities such as the Congress helps further both the formal and informal networks between the United States and other nations. These networks have led—and will continue to lead—to fruitful, collaborative research efforts on transnational crime.

For more information, visit NIJ's International Center Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/international>.

### How to Handle Prison Riots

A former prison in Moundsville, West Virginia, became the site of a riot recently—a mock riot, staged as a training activity for corrections, law enforcement, and other public safety officers. The event showcased new and emerging technologies.

NIJ's Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization

(OLETC) in Wheeling, West Virginia, staged the fourth annual riot at the former West Virginia State Penitentiary so that participants could gain hands-on training through realistic scenarios that involved prison uprisings, hostage situations, and prison takeovers. Tactical teams from law enforcement and corrections agencies responded to the mock scenarios, which included a stabbing at an inmate basketball game, a cell-block takeover, a total-darkness capture, an uprising staged in the chapel, and a high-speed car escape.

Medical, fire, and emergency response personnel also participated in support roles to treat and evacuate the "injured." Criminal justice students from Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia served as inmates and hostages.

The training showcases new and developing law enforcement and

corrections technologies, which cover everything from night vision devices, security systems, officer protection products, and less-than-lethal weapons to prisoner restraints, communications devices, and personnel location and tracking systems.

For more information about the riot or to obtain a videotape of the 1999 mock prison riot video, contact OLETC at 1-888-306-5382, or visit the Web page of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center, called JUSTNET, at <http://www.nlectc.org>.

### **Bomb Technicians Learn New Technology**

Technology for disabling bombs continues to be refined and developed with NIJ funding. Recently, NIJ staff participated in training on how to use a new device called the flying plate disrupter, which is being

developed by the Naval Surface Warfare Center with NIJ funding.

The flying plate disrupter is an inexpensive, easily transportable mechanism that can safely neutralize large explosive devices, such as fuel-fertilizer bombs.

The technology is being tested in a 6-month pilot program with an FBI-sponsored working group involving bomb squads from Kansas and Missouri. The program will yield design specifications by 2001.

For more information, visit the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center Web page at <http://www.nlectc.org>.