



Texas Crime Stoppers Report

June 2000 – June 2002

When the Texas Crime Stoppers Advisory Council was created in 1981, only 43 programs were operating. Today, there are almost 200 community programs and approximately 500 campus programs in middle schools, high schools, and colleges—more than in any other state. *Statistics compiled from certified programs' reports from June 30, 2000, through June 30, 2002.

- Tips to the toll-free state hotline, 800-252-TIPS, led to seven Texas Top Ten Fugitive Sex Offenders arrests. Texas offered a 1,000-dollar reward to the informants in these cases.
- Law enforcement agencies using crime stoppers tips arrested over 20,000 suspects.
- Law enforcement agencies cleared more than 27,000 cases.
- Crime Stoppers programs paid almost

- 3.4 million dollars in rewards to informants.
- Campus crime stoppers tips led to 10,584 weapons seizures in Texas schools.
- As a result of crime stoppers tips, law enforcement agencies recovered almost 9 million dollars in property.
- Crime Stoppers tips led to narcotics seizures worth more than 52 million dollars.

Texas Crime Stoppers accomplishments from 2000 to 2002:

- Trained more than 3,000 crime stoppers volunteers, police officers, teachers, and students.
- Awarded 81 grants totaling \$2,883,366 to local crime stopper programs in Plan Years 2001 and 2002 to enhance training, technology, and computer software.
- Continued to streamline the certification process to make it easier and less expensive for local program certification.

- Funded a training and technical assistance program that provided up to \$3,500 in grants to certified local programs to help offset costs for training needed for certification.
- Expanded crime stopper training and conference programs through a grant to Southwest Texas State University's Institute for Criminal Justice Studies, including a first ever Basic Campus Crime Stoppers course.
- Expanded the crime stoppers Internet site and newsletter to keep local crime stopper programs informed about state requirements, program achievements, and operational procedures.

Quintanilla Recognized

The Laredo / Webb County Red Ribbon Coalition, an organization committed to promoting, assisting, and supporting the prevention of drug use in schools, work places, and communities, held a parade and rally recently. During the rally, presentations were made honoring an individual and agency that made a significant impact on the lives of Laredo families. Estela Quintanilla, Laredo Independent School District Campus Crime Stoppers Coordinator and Vice President of Laredo Crime Stoppers, received individual recognition, and the United States Customs Service received agency recognition.



l-r Deputy Blas Garza, Webb County Sheriff's Department; Gene Garza, U. S. Customs; Captain Anna Venegas, Laredo Fire Department; Jorge Vera, Border Title; Estela Quintanilla, Laredo Independent School District Campus Crime Stoppers Coordinator and Vice President of Laredo Crime Stoppers; Jesus Toro Martinez, SCAN / Webb County Community Coalition.

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Training and Technical Assistance Workgroup Meets

Texas Crime Stoppers' Training and Technical Assistance Workgroup (TTAW) met in Houston on Saturday and Sunday, September 28 and 29, and again in Dallas, December 1. The workgroup tackled a comprehensive agenda that included conference format and locations, awards criteria, grant award criteria, and updating the Texas Crime Stoppers Manual. The group, many of whom are crime stoppers instructors, also received training from Colin Ashburn, ICJS, on how to involve the audience in their presentations.

The TTAW is a group of crime stoppers practitioners comprised of police coordinators and board members representing large and small adult and campus programs as well as the state crime stoppers director and representatives from the Institute for Criminal Justice Studies. The group decides the topics and instructors for crime stoppers courses and conferences as well as providing advice on other major decisions affecting Texas Crime Stoppers.

The TTAW was established in May 2000 when Texas Crime Stoppers was reorganized and rejuvenated with funds from the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, and played a key role in establishing the overall direction of the statewide crime stoppers effort. The workgroup's many accomplishments include revising the Texas Crime Stoppers Manual; developing the Basic Crime Stoppers course, including lesson plans, handouts, and visual aids; and developing the Basic Campus Crime Stoppers course.

For TTAW member contact information, email mh39@swt.edu.

Your News

We invite your crime stoppers program news to include in our statewide newsletter. Send pictures and copy electronically (GLØ2@swt.edu), or United States Postal Service (attention George Landry).



TTAW members l-r: (r1) Sylvia Garcia, Karen Baier, Luci Stefek, Estela Quintanilla, Carmen Napp. (r2) Joe Martino, Richard Carter, Ray Wathen, Betty Bosarge, Rick Dorman. (r3) Colin Ashburn, Mel Joyner, George Landry. (r4) Brian Thomas.

Tip Leads to Cop Shooter *Officer expected to recover*

EDINBURG — An Edinburg man, alleged to have shot a Weslaco police officer, shot himself in the head after an intense, six-hour standoff at a local residence.

A crime stoppers tip led investigators to the suspect's home east of Edinburg. The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department reported that the suspect, Francisco Javier Sanchez, 28, was on life support at McAllen Medical Center. He later died.

Sanchez shot himself in the head with a revolver after police gassed the Edinburg home in which he took refuge. License plates seen on the getaway car connected Sanchez to a robbery at a Circle K convenience store. A preliminary investigation determined that Weslaco police officer Robert Lopez saw two men acting suspiciously at a Weslaco Circle K, one of whom is suspected to be Sanchez. Lopez trailed the men and pulled them over in a McCoys' parking lot.

As Lopez approached the vehicle, the driver shot him in the face. The officer drove himself to Knapp Medical Center with wounds to his cheek and neck. He is expected to recover and hopes to return to work. No information is available on the second man wanted in connection with the robberies.

Sanchez is a suspect in two convenience store robberies and an attempted capital murder. The sheriff's department and the

Texas Rangers are working together in the investigation.

<p>Director George Landry</p> <p>Texas Crime Stoppers Training Program Coordinator Colin Ashburn</p> <p>Texas Crime Stoppers Training Office Manager Maggie Hutchins</p> <p>Texas Crime Stoppers Training Secretary Valery Billingsley</p> <p>Student Worker Vanessa Gonzales</p> <p>Copy Deadlines</p> <p>Mar.-Apr. Issue—March 3 May-June Issue—May 1 July-Aug. Issue—July 1 Sep.-Oct. Issue—September 2 Nov.-Dec. Issue—November 3 Jan.-Feb. Issue—January 5</p> <p>Funds for this publication provided by Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division 512-463-1784 Fax 512-475-1467</p> <p>Institute for Criminal Justice Studies West Campus-Canyon Hall Southwest Texas State University San Marcos, Texas 78666-4610 Toll Free 866-220-4357, 512-245-0571 Fax 512-245-2851 www.crimestoppers.swt.edu</p>

FAQ's

Question: What type bank accounts should our crime stoppers program have?

Answer: We recommend that you set up at least two accounts: operations and rewards. The operations account pays bills and office supplies. The reward account pays informants. If you receive court-generated money, such as probation fees, remove 20 percent for administrative costs and deposit the balance in the reward account. The court-generated monies are subject to audit, so keep them separate from other funds. If you have campus programs and/or funds with additional restrictions, you may need additional accounts. For example, you may have an operations account, reward account, campus account, probation fees account, and a reserve account. You may ask the advice of a banker or accountant to determine what best serves your program.

Question: What type insurance does our program need?

Answer: It is up to your board. However, we recommend board-paid liability insurance. Grants from the governor's office require a fidelity bond to cover fraud, embezzlement, and the like. Programs with office space and employees may need property and liability insurance. Many programs carry nonprofit directors and officers' coverage (D & O). Insurance is complex, so speak to a licensed agent about your particular needs. More information is

available through the Texas Department of Insurance at www.tdi.state.tx.us.

Question: Why can't our state conferences be held in a facility that offers both lodging and meeting space? Then we don't have to travel from our hotel to the conference.

The court-generated monies are subject to audit, so keep them separate from other funds.

Answer: Conferences have become so large that it is impossible to find a single facility in some locations with adequate meeting space and lodging. Only five Texas cities have single facilities with accommodations for 500 to 600 participants. Since we can not expect the crime stoppers programs in these five cities to host all our conferences, we must select smaller venues which necessitates using multiple hotels.

Question: Why box lunches at the campus conferences?

Answer: Time and space prohibit offering a served or buffet meal. To turn a meeting hall seating 550 people classroom style to a banquet set-up requires about 60-90 minutes. In the middle of the day, this amount of downtime is unacceptable.

Question: Why no free conference tee shirts at the campus conferences?

Answer: The rising cost for conducting conferences leaves little room for extras.

Question: What type of phone and answering service options does my crime stoppers program have?

Answer: Use a digital cellular telephone, if you take tips via cell service, to minimize eavesdropping. Answering machines are still acceptable. Keep the machine secure and use the type with battery back-up, so you do not lose your messages to a power failure. Several answering services are available to take your tips after hours, or 24 hours, depending upon your needs. Prior to signing a contract, make sure that the service has experience answering tips lines and that you are comfortable with their tip-taking procedures.

If you have a question for the FAQ's column, email it to GLØ2@swt.edu.

First Ever Basic Campus Crime Stoppers Course

Sixty-five campus crime stoppers attended Texas' first ever Basic Campus Crime Stoppers Course at the Dallas Omni Park West. The course presented by the Institute for Criminal Justice Studies under a grant from the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, was coordinated by Colin Ashburn.

Course instructors from the Training and Technical Assistance Workgroup were David Hooper, Grand Prairie High School Crime Stoppers; Estela Quintanilla, Laredo ISD Crime Stoppers; Dr. Betty Bosarge, Governor's Office; Ray Wathen, Crime Stoppers of Houston; Judge Richard Carter, Crime Stoppers International; Luci Stefek, Killeen Crime Stoppers; and Melvin Joyner, Wichita Falls Crime Stoppers.

Register for the next basic campus course scheduled for Houston, April 23-24, at www.crimestoppers.swt.edu or call toll-free 866-220-HELP.



Attendees work together on problem solving at the first Basic Campus Crime Stoppers Course, Dallas.

FEBRUARY

10-14	Basic Juvenile Officer (40 hr)	San Marcos	\$225
17-19	Basic SRO/School District Police (24 hr)	Amarillo	\$75
19-21	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (24 hr)	Rockwall	\$75
20-21	Use of Restraint: Special Education Students (16 hr)	Amarillo	\$35
24-26	Basic SRO/School District Police (24 hr)	Beaumont	\$75

MARCH

3-7	Introduction to Crime Prevention–Part 1 (40 hr)	San Marcos	\$45
11-13	Basic SRO/School District Police (24 hr) (Register with Mike Ferguson, Kilgore College Police Academy)	Kilgore	\$75
18-20	Basic SRO/School District Police (24 hr)	Houston	\$75
24-28	Introduction to Crime Prevention-Part 1 (40 hr)	Wichita Falls	\$45

APRIL

7-11	Introduction to Crime Prevention–Part 2 (40 hr)	San Marcos	\$199
23-24	Basic Campus Crime Stoppers	Houston	No Fee

MAY

19-21	Annual Crime Stoppers Conference	Laredo	See Training
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JUNE

9-13	Basic SRO/School District Police (40 hr)	Abilene	\$95
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For More Information Contact

for crime stoppers courses
 Texas Crime Stoppers
 866-220-4357, 512-245-0571
 Fax 512-245-2851
www.crimestoppers.swt.edu

for all other courses
 Institute for Criminal Justice Studies
 512-245-3030
 Fax 512-245-2834
www.criminaljusticestudies.com

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