

M. Rebecca Downing , Criminal Justice Trainer for Penn State University, and Harrisburg Area Police Academy

Rebecca Downing retired in 2001 from the York City (PA) Police Department with the rank of Lieutenant after serving 27 years, primarily in the Field Operations Division. She then served as the Chief of the York County Detectives in York, PA. for 4 years. 2001-2004.

As the Chief, she totally revitalized and re-organized this agency. This agency exists through the District Attorney's office, offering police services and specialized investigations to assist the approximate 25 municipal police departments in York Co. PA. She brought York Co. Detectives into MPOETC compliance, hired additional detectives, created 4 additional specialized investigative units, vastly increased training for the Detectives, and the training that they deliver, county-wide; Updated equipment, expanded enforcement tenfold, and achieved agency Accreditation by the Pa. Chiefs of Police in June 2003. The York County Detective Bureau was only the second county detective agency in the U.S. known to have achieved law enforcement accreditation status.

She began her instructing career in 1990 for the Police Academy courses at the Harrisburg Area Community College where she continues to do so today. She also instructed criminal justice undergraduate courses at York College of Pennsylvania for 4 years, and currently teaches for the Penn State University Justice and Safety Institute.

Rebecca assisted the Pa. Municipal Police Officers and Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) in expanding, re-writing and updating courses for their 2016 Basic Police Officer's recruit program.

In 2007 Rebecca moved to Florida to escape the northern winters, but still continues to travel to deliver instruction.