Contact: Diana Gonzalez

FACULTY PRESENTATION AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY: "IMPROVING THE RELIABILITY OF EYEWITNESSES"

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: Professor Gary Wells will discuss general aspects of his National Science Foundation funded research on eyewitness identification and its impact on law enforcement policies and practices across the United States.

Gary Wells received a Ph.D. in Experimental Social Psychology from Ohio State University and is Professor of Psychology at Iowa State University; he also holds the title of Distinguished Professor and Stavish Chair in the Social Sciences. He is also Director of Social Science for the American Judicature Society's Institute of Forensic Science and Public Policy. He is an internationally recognized scholar in scientific psychology and his studies of eyewitness memory are widely known and cited.

Professor Wells has received more than $2 million in funding from the National Science Foundation for his research on eyewitness identification. His findings have been incorporated into standard textbooks in psychology and law. His research-based proposals on lineup procedures, such as his idea of double-blind lineups, are increasingly being accepted in law enforcement practices across the United States. He was a founding member of the U.S. Department of Justice group that developed the first set of national guidelines for eyewitness evidence and co-chaired the panel that wrote the Justice Department training manual for law enforcement on eyewitness identification evidence. Professor Wells is past president of the American Psychology-Law Society and has received Distinguished Contribution awards from the American Psychology-Law Society and a Presidential Citation Award from the American Psychological Association. In 2008, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.