

October 2020 Topic

This Month's Symposium Topic is:

A Discussion about Accreditation, Policy, and calls for Reform

CALEA Executive Director Craig Hartley and Regional Program Manager Laura Saunders will speak about the value of accreditation and how CALEA is responding to the calls for reform. They will also include information about recent standard updates.

Craig Hartley Executive Director



Craig Hartley, Jr. joined CALEA in June 2008 and was appointed Executive Director as of January 2014. He began his career with the Greensboro (NC) Police Department in 1989 and served in a number of positions within the agency before becoming an Assistant Chief of Police. During his tenure with Greensboro, he worked in the functional areas of patrol operations, tactical operations, accreditation, internal affairs, personnel, training, budget and planning, information and technology, and served as the chief of staff.

Before coming to CALEA, Craig also worked for the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, an agency within the Executive Branch of state government assigned to the Secretary of Public Safety. While there he led the department's Policy, Planning and Research Division and coordinated legislative affairs and public information. Craig is a graduate of Appalachian State University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He holds a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice/political science and a Master of Public Affairs. He has received specialized police management and leadership training from the Southern Police Institute and the Center for Creative Leadership, and he is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy.

Laura Saunders Regional Program Manager



Laura serves as the CALEA Regional Program Manager for the Mid-Atlantic Region which includes Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Columbia College (MO).

Laura served 23 years at the Burlington Police Department (NC) working in various non-sworn positions to include accreditation manager, communications, administration, records, training, and investigations. She became a CALEA Assessor in 2012. Laura's experience includes working for PowerDMS for 6 years as a Trainer. Prior to her RPM role, she consulted with agencies to assist them with their accreditation processes to include a campus law enforcement agency.