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Convocation to explore new ideas on future of justice

Effective criminal justice practice requires solid, empirical social science data, which means research and universities do matter, says Frank Zimring, keynote speaker for the inaugural Criminal Justice Convocation. The event is scheduled for 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, in the University Union Ballroom at Sacramento State.

The convocation, which will be attended by some of the region’s top law enforcement leaders, is free and open to the University community and the public.

Zimring, the William G. Simon Professor of Law and chairman of the Criminal Justice Research Program at the University of California, Berkeley, bases his opinion on a scientific study of data from New York City.

Two decades ago, conventional wisdom held that police could do little to prevent crime and that putting persistent offenders away for a long time was absolutely necessary to reduce crime. The New York City study, Zimring believes, showed that both assumptions are wrong and demonstrated that basic research perspectives on crime data are valuable.


The professor’s talk will be preceded by a panel discussion featuring Sacramento Police Chief Rick Braziel, Sacramento County District Attorney Jan Scully, Roseville Police Chief Daniel Hahn, Chief Don Meyer of the Sacramento County Probation Department and the Honorable Laurie Earl, presiding judge of Sacramento Superior Court.

The theme of the convocation, organized by the University’s Division of Criminal Justice, is “The Future of Justice: Building Leaders for a Global Community.”

A reception follows the program’s conclusion.

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Office of Public Affairs at (916) 278-6156.

– Dixie Reid

dixie.reid@csus.edu
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