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ASCLD Recognizes 2024 Foresight Maximus Award Recipients

GARNER, NC: The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) announced fourteen forensic laboratories as recipients of the Foresight Maximus Award, a distinction recognizing the top performing forensic laboratories in the world based on Foresight business metrics.

For Fiscal Year 2024 Project FORESIGHT received 220 submissions. There are fourteen Maximus Award winners, representing forensic laboratories, medical examiners, and coroners. Each performed above a 90% efficiency level. These award winners represent one national lab, five state labs, five regional/county labs, and three metropolitan labs.

- Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore, MD
- Bexar County Criminal Investigation Laboratory, San Antonio, TX
- Chandler Police Department Forensic Service Section, Chandler, AZ
- Denver Police Department Crime Laboratory, Denver, CO
- Forensic Science Department, Organismo de Investigación Judicial, San Joaquín de Flores, Heredia, Costa Rica
- Indianapolis-Marion County Forensic Services Agency, Indianapolis, IN
- Institute of Forensic Sciences of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR
- Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Topeka, KS
- Midwest Regional Forensic Laboratory, Andover, MN
- Montana Forensic Science Division, Missoula, MT
- North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory, Shreveport, LA
- Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, Edmond, OK
- Pinellas County Forensic Lab, Largo, FL
- Wyoming State Crime Laboratory, Cheyenne, WY

"The fourteen laboratories honored with the Maximus Award have demonstrated that excellence in forensic science is not only possible — it's being achieved every day. Their unwavering commitment to timely, high-quality service stands as a beacon for our entire community," said ASCLD President Scott Ford. "These laboratories

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remind us that when we set bold standards and pursue them with purpose, we elevate justice and strengthen public trust. On behalf of ASCLD, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to each of this year's recipients — your leadership and dedication inspire us all."

About Foresight: Started in 2007 by a cooperative agreement between the West Virginia University College of Business and Economics and the National Institute of Justice, the Foresight program is a business-guided, self-evaluation of forensic science laboratories, which began with local, regional, state, and national agencies in North America. Over the years, the program has expanded to include forensic laboratories from around the world. Economics, accounting, finance, and forensic faculty from WVU and Florida International University (FIU) provide assistance, guidance, and analysis. The process involves standardizing definitions for metrics to evaluate work processes, linking financial information to work tasks, and functions. The program has grown over time and its success had led to numerous journal publications, countless laboratory efficiency improvements across the U.S. and a supplementary program with funding by the Laura and John Arnold foundation to examine the interface between Foresight metrics and Laboratory Information Management Systems. Based on the success of the program and the gains seen by forensic laboratories, ASCLD has sought to begin recognizing peak performing laboratories at its Annual Symposium.^{1,2}.

About ASCLD: ASCLD is a nonprofit professional society of crime laboratory directors and forensic science managers dedicated to providing excellence in forensic science through leadership and innovation. Founded in 1974, the purpose of the organization is to foster professional interests; assist the development of laboratory management principles and techniques; acquire, preserve, and disseminate forensic based information; maintain and improve communications among crime laboratory directors; and promote, encourage and maintain the highest standards of practice in the field.

- 1 FORESIGHT: A Business Approach to Improving Forensic Science Services, Forensic Science Policy & Management: An International Journal Volume 1, Issue 2, 2009, Max M. Houck, Richard A. Riley, Paul J. Speaker, & Tom S. Witt, pages 85-95.
- 2 Houck, Max and Speaker, Paul. *Forensic Science Laboratory Benchmarking: the Foresight Manual*, CRC Press, March 2024.