

WSCTC - Lowes Agility Training Course Check Presentation

On June 8, Jessica Vickerson, Store Manager for Lowes of Edwardsville, awarded West Side Career and Technology Center a Toolbox For Education Grant worth \$5000. The grant will be used to construct an outdoor, twelve-station Lowes Law Enforcement Agility Training Course. The course will be used by WSCTC Law Enforcement students and any County Municipal Police Department that wants to train, screen and retain a physically fit police force. Once the course opens, township police departments like, Dallas, Forty Fort, Kingston, Lehman, Swoyersville, Wilkes-Barre and Wright, who have already pledged support for the project, will be able to utilize the course to recruit and retain officers. WSCTC students will also use the course as an integral part of the Law Enforcement fitness program.

With a significant increase in gun violence since 2005 (POSTED ON MARCH 28, 2016 BY TIMESLEADER), police and citizen safety is an ever-growing concern in Luzerne County. Studies show that physical fitness can protect police officers from becoming victims. FBI criminal interviews revealed that offenders usually size up an officer's physical ability when making decisions to flee, take aggressive action, or submit to arrest. The results indicate that regardless of race or gender, if officers appeared fit and carried themselves in a professional manner, offenders were more likely to submit peacefully to arrest. When officers were perceived as out of shape, offenders judged them as potential targets and capitalized on the situation. Agility training helps increase physical fitness, flexibility, and endurance.

A Ground Breaking Ceremony will be held in fall of 2017 when school resumes. Students from Carpentry, Law Enforcement, and SkillsUSA will build the course with a grand opening expected in the spring of 2018. Forty Fort Public Works Department has also pledged support for this project, offering layout and construction consultation and advice.

Photo Left to Right:

Dan Hunsinger, WSCTC Law Enforcement Teacher; Adam Gober, Forty Fort Public Works; Chief Marcella Lendacky, Wilkes-Barre Police; Chief David Latoski, Swoyersville Police, Colleen McNee, Human Resources Manager, Lowes; Richard Rava, Principal; Jessica Vickerson, Store Manager, Lowes of Edwardsville; Joshua Perrin, Administrative Assistant Store Manager; Sergeant Jason Height, Kingston Police; Rick Kamus, Forty Fort Public Works

Seated: Students Michael Simms, Tyler Vitale, and Gavin Burke

