

Criminal Justice Alumnus Harnesses Ambition to Become Probation Officer

Lake Land College Student: Taylor Davis



When Taylor Davis returned to his hometown of Shelbyville, Illinois after several years of military police work, he knew the next step in his career would be in some aspect of law enforcement. Taylor knew that a degree would be the foundation of a successful career in criminal justice. He looked at several Criminal Justice training programs, but like many of us, he ultimately relied on the advice of his friends to make the final decision. **“It was a nice transition for me as a high school graduate that went straight to the Army. It wasn’t intimidating and I felt comfortable with my professors and fellow classmates,”** Taylor commented.

Lake Land offered Taylor many career options in criminal justice, and he began the program not knowing which one he would choose. However, a guest speaker made his career choice easy. **“I knew**

becoming a probation officer was the right choice for me after a guest speaker came into class one day to speak about probation. I never truly understood what a probation officer was, and after listening to the speaker, I was hooked,” Davis said.

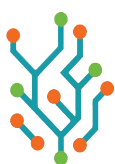
Taylor finished at Lake Land in 2014. He received two associate in applied science degrees (one in Human Services-Criminal Justice and another in Law Enforcement), and an associate in arts degree in Criminal Justice. He also earned certificates in Law Enforcement Operations and Criminal Justice Leadership. Taylor is currently a probation officer in Effingham County where monitors and manages a case load of nearly 100 probationers.

For more information about this program, visit [Lake Land’s Criminal Justice website](#).



“I chose Lake Land College because I had several friends that went through Lake Land who easily transitioned into successful careers in law enforcement.”

Taylor Davis



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John A. Logan College Helps Single Mom Realize Career Goals

**John A. Logan College Student:
Jessa Gramenz**



Jessa Gramenz knew that going back to school would require a sacrifice for her entire family. As a single mom, she would have to find a program that was flexible enough to adapt to her busy schedule and provide her with the coursework she needed to turn her general knowledge of computer science into a career. Jessa is grateful that she put her trust in John A. Logan College (JALC) in Carterville, Illinois.

The staff's knowledge and their ability to detect aptitude for appropriate studies surpassed Jessa's expectations for a community college. She credits her advisor and mentor, Mark Rogers, with not only helping her select a career, but also shaping her into a well-qualified

professional. Mark and the other great staff members at JALC encouraged her and showed her she was able to balance work, life, and school.

Jessa received her associates in Computer Forensics and Network Security and continued her education at the University of North Texas in Denton. Since receiving her bachelor's degree in Computing Technology and Performance Improvement in 2018, she has been an information security analyst at a large financial corporation in Texas.

For more information on this program, contact Lora Hines at lorahines@jalc.edu.

“I am far from a traditional student but JALC made it easy to continue my education while working and still allowed the opportunity to spend time with my family. I love my experience at JALC so much, I would come back and do it again!”

Jessa Gramenz

