ATLANTIC CITY'S FALL WORKSHOP ON CRIME PREVENTION TO HIGHLIGHT PROVEN, NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MODEL OF BETTER PUBLIC SAFETY, POLICING.

Data can inform the best strategies for community engagement, crime prevention and service delivery. This interactive workshop lets participants see first-hand how popular data analysis techniques drive decision-making for fair and effective resource deployments and actions that meet community expectations. Risk Terrain Modeling (RTM) software technology, originally tested in Atlantic City 5 years ago, is now used around the world to diagnose crime patterns and prioritize places in need. RTM empowers multiple stakeholders to do what they do best at the places needing them most.

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Hosted by Stockton University, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the Atlantic City Police Department. Sponsored by Simsi.

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Crime and violence are top priorities for many cities across the United States. Adequately addressing these issues in a way that meets local expectations can be challenging. Police can't do it alone. The national model for data-informed community engagement, or DICE, brings citizens and police officers together to reduce crime and save public dollars.

The four-hour workshop coming to Atlantic City in September teaches how to do DICE. Participants will receive a certificate and practical tips to help them begin or improve upon existing DICE initiatives in their own jurisdictions.

"We need the right kind of data and analytics to allocate the right resources to the right places at the right times," explained Joel Caplan, Rutgers University professor and co-founder of Simsi. "We need to think differently about crime prevention. We need a better process for effective and sustainable problem-solving that maximizes existing local resources."

According to Caplan, "DICE welcomes inputs and actions from multiple stakeholders and perspectives." It relies on Risk Terrain Modeling (RTM), a crime analysis technique developed at Rutgers University, to connect environmental features to crime patterns. "RTM empowers everyone to do what they do best at the places needing them most," said Caplan.

"It gives us a better picture of crime problems, with a focus on places not people," explained Atlantic City Police Chief James Sarkos. "Some settings are more attractive for criminal behavior than others. It's about figuring out the unique contexts and opportunities for crime at particular places." RTM diagnoses these location patterns and offers better insights about how to make spaces safer.

DICE serves as the backbone of a comprehensive public safety strategy that mobilizes existing resources to share the burden of crime prevention. Informed by RTM analysis, it empowers public agencies, community organizations, businesses, non-profit organizations, and other local stakeholders to become co-producers of public safety. The result is a comprehensive, transparent, and effective crime prevention strategy tailored to local problems. Law enforcement is only one part of the effort.

The workshop, co-hosted by Stockton University, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Atlantic City Police Department, teaches participants how to use RTM for resource deployments, investigations, community engagement, and crime prevention. They will learn how RTM works, review case studies, and gain practical insights and tips to take home to their own jurisdictions for implementation. Over 30 participants, representing organizations, cities, and towns throughout New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York are expected to attend.

"We're thrilled to partner with ACPD and Dr. Caplan on this workshop," said Nusret Sahin, Assistant Professor at Stockton University and Principal Investigator on a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice that focuses on improving police-citizen interactions during traffic stops.

"Crime prevention with DICE is evidence-based practice. It's equitable and effective public safety," explained Sahin. "Atlantic City has already benefited from RTM through prior research projects, and I'm glad to see people from all over coming here to learn practical information that they can take back home with them to replicate best practices."

The interactive workshop will be held on Stockton's Atlantic City Campus. It is designed for a general audience, without any previous experience or background in data analysis or public safety. Prior similar workshops sponsored by Simsi throughout the U.S. have included all ranks of police officers, city managers, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, business leaders, neighborhood associations, and other community members.

Workshop participants from various backgrounds quickly realize they have the same general goals for crime prevention. And they have shared visions for what public safety and policing should look like. Data analysis with RTM changes their conversations about problems and solutions. Most communities already have the people, expertise, and services in place to make DICE successful. It simply brings these existing local stakeholders together on a common front to coordinate resources and share the burden of public safety. The result is a deliberate and impactful response to crime problems throughout the city as a whole.

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Simsi provides the only Risk Terrain Modeling software to diagnose crime patterns, prioritize places in need, and deploy resources for public safety and crime prevention. We're committed to making places safer and communities stronger. See simsi.com*.*

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