

President[Hadley Kava](#)

Hello everyone!

Vice President[Tara Scott](#)

My name is Hadley Kava, and I had the honor of being elected as President of the IAI Iowa Division at the 2022 Iowa IAI Educational Conference. I wanted to take a moment to say hello, that I hope everyone had a lovely holiday season, and that you are looking forward to 2023 as much as I am! Although I admit that the main reason I'm looking forward to 2023 is because it's not 2022. This past year did have its highlights, though, and I wanted to share them with our members.

Secretary/Treasurer[Abigail Sutton](#)**Sergeant at Arms**[Matt Belz](#)**Webmaster**[Jennifer Ganpat](#)

The 2022 Basic Crime Scene Class was hosted by the Ankeny Police Department and filled up almost immediately. Instructors came from Council Bluffs, the DCI Crime Lab, Marshalltown P.D. and of course Ankeny P.D.'s own David Billings and Abigail Sutton. The goal of these training courses is to instill not only knowledge to civilian and sworn crime scene investigators, but also to help them gain confidence in their skills. Having gone through this training course not that long ago, I can say for certain how much it helped me, and I hope that the most recent class of 2022 feels the same. Thank you very much to all the instructors who took time out of their busy schedules and personal time to impart their wisdom and experience to others this year, and I hope you'll be available to work the same magic during the 2023 Advanced Crime Scene Class!

Building on the success of the 2022 Basic Crime Scene Class, the 2022 Iowa IAI Educational Conference was a huge hit. Despite heavy snow on the first day, we had nearly 100 attendees and 8 vendors present. Our speakers and instructors were engaging, informative and entertaining—which can be hard to accomplish at any conference. During our 2 ½ days together, I had multiple people say the only bad part was having to choose which speaker or workshop to attend because there were so many great options. I consider that to be a sign of a successful conference, and I appreciated the kind words.

Planning the annual conference is a big undertaking, to say the least. There is no way that I could have done any of it without the 2022 Iowa IAI Board. To Dave Billings,



Cortney Watson, Steve Tvrdik, Adi Johnson, Anna Young, Brenda Abel, Jason Rokke, Eryn Hageman, and Jason Ellison: There are no words to fully express my appreciation for you all, and for all of the help you gave during the planning and execution stages of this past year's conference. I was so lucky to have you guys on my side—thank you.

Many thanks to Jennifer Ganpat for her amazing tech-wizard skills, reminding me to breathe, and making me laugh. To Abigail Sutton: thank you for not only planning a kick-butt social night but for giving me hope for the future when it comes to the young—I can't wait to see all of the amazing things you're going to do.

To our vendors: Collision & Crime Forensic Solutions, Foster & Freeman USA, Lynn Peavey Co., SERV-PRO, First Responders Foundation, FARO Technologies, Frontline Therapy and Arrowhead Forensics—You guys and your businesses made this conference possible with your support, and we will continue to support you.

Thank you to the companies that supported our conference this year with their sponsorships! TriTech Forensics and Delta Forensics LLC both generously donated free training courses this year, which we gave away as grand prizes on our final day. JusticeTrax sponsored our conference breaks for the first two days and provided our awesome Crime Scene Do Not Cross conference lanyards. EVIDENT sponsored our breakfast for the final day before the big case study presentation and provided the bags that held all our awesome conference swag. Schwarz Forensic Enterprises sponsored our last refreshment break of the day to keep us going during the final stretch.

To all our fantastic workshop instructors and speakers this year—holy cow, did you guys hit it out of the park or what?! The 2022 lineup was amazing, and there wasn't a boring apple in the bunch! To Will Henningsen, Jason Cole, Dr. Heather Garvin, Dr. Lara Noldner, Katie Pattee, Laura Rutledge, Scott Guterson, Trish Pace, Dave Billings, Dr. Jacob Smith, Dr. Kelly Kruse, Dr. Paul Ascherman, Adi Johnson, and Anthony Kava:



Thank you for teaching us. We are truly grateful for your knowledge and expertise, but also your willingness to share it.

As with all cases, there are triumphs and struggles. It can be easy to forget the trying times and act like there were only successes. DCI SAC Richard Rahn, SA Trent Vileta and Scott Brown of the Iowa Attorney General's Office took time out of their packed schedules to share the Mollie Tibbetts Homicide case with all of us on the final day of our conference. They were candid with their audience about both the obstacles and victories during each of their parts in the investigation, but in the end, there was a clear message from all: Mollie Tibbetts was an amazing young lady, who had her whole life in front of her. That life was taken from her when she told a man "No." It is not the first time this has happened, nor will it be the last. If we ever have to work a case that reminds of us of Mollie, I trust we will remain inspired by the tenacity and dedication of the team that brought her home and gave her family justice and aspire to do the same with the cases we work.

A very special thank you to Chief Darius Potts of the Ankeny Police Department and DMACC President Rob Denson for starting our conference off with some inspiration and a rap song. Something tells me both will be talked about at future conferences for years to come!

DMACC's Criminal Justice Program provided the Iowa IAI so much assistance this year, from helping us secure the lovely FFA Enrichment Center to hold our event to letting us use their new DMACC Crime Scene House Training Facility. Many of the students in their program were encouraged to participate. I was fortunate to get the opportunity to meet some during this conference and was very impressed. A huge thank you to Jessica Cole and her DMACC CJ team!



During the annual business meeting nominations came forward for our 2023 Iowa IAI Board. Welcome to:

- Tara Scott of the DCI Crime Laboratory-Vice President
- Abigail Sutton of the Ankeny Police Department-Secretary
- Jennifer Ganpat (FKA Basher) of the DCI Crime Laboratory-Webmaster
- Matt Belz of the Cedar Falls Police Department-Sergeant in Arms
- Amy Stringer of the Webster County Sheriff's Office-Board Member
- Brandi Webb of the Fort Dodge Police Department-Board Member

Welcome Back to:

- Anna Young of the DCI Crime Laboratory-Board Member
- Adi Johnson of the Ames Police Department-Board Member
- Eryn Hageman of the Waterloo Police Department-Board Member
- David Billings of the Ankeny Police Department-IAI Regional Representative

Dates for the 2023 Advanced Crime Scene School and the 2023 Iowa IAI Educational Conference are forthcoming and both will likely be held in the Greater Des Moines area. Please remember to renew your membership for 2023 if you have not already done so. If you have someone new at your agency, please let them know about our organization and encourage them to join us.

Membership renewals can be made at:

<http://www.iowaiai.org/online-payment/>

As always, if you have any suggestions for topics, presenters, or our website please contact the Webmaster or anyone on the Iowa IAI Board.

Let's go rock 2023, shall we?

Sincerely,

Hadley Kava

Iowa IAI President

