

# CRAIG W. KOWALSKI

Fort Myers, Florida 33965 | |

## Education

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**Master of Public Administration:** May 2016  
**Barry University** - Miami Shores , FL

**Bachelor of Arts:** Criminal Justice May 2006  
**Florida Atlantic University** - Boca Raton , FL

**Associate of Arts:** Criminal Justice Aug 2000  
**Broward Community College** - Davie , FL

## Professional Summary

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Chief of Police and Public Safety executive at Florida Gulf Coast University with over 30 years of progressive law enforcement experience in educational and community settings. Proven leader in advancing student and campus safety through the development of comprehensive prevention, threat assessment, and response strategies. Extensive experience in professional standards, investigations, and accountability processes, with a strong understanding of decision-making and regulatory compliance. Skilled in policy development, organizational leadership, and managing complex operations, including personnel, budgets, and critical resources. Demonstrated ability to collaborate with educational leaders, government agencies, and community partners to support safe learning environments. Committed to integrity, transparency, and upholding the highest standards of professional conduct in service to the public and the education community.

## Skills

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- Operations Management
- Budget Management
- Project Management
- Strategic Planning
- Emergency Preparedness
- Policy Development
- Human Resources Management
- Security Assessment

## Certifications/Leadership Coursework

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- Law Enforcement Officer: State of Florida Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Training

- Law Enforcement Instructor: State of Florida Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Training
- Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines Trainer: Florida Department of Education
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Senior Leadership Program, Chief Executive Seminar, Class 55
- FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association Supervisor Leadership Institute (SLI)
- FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association Command Leadership Institute (CLI)
- FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association Executive Leadership Institute (ELI)

## Affiliations

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- President, Southwest Florida Police Chiefs Association
- Member, International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Member, International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Executives
- Member, Florida Police Chiefs Association
- Member, Florida Police Chiefs Association. Education Committee
- Member, Florida Police Chiefs Association, Professional Standards Committee
- Member, Association of Threat Assessment Professionals
- Co-Chair, FGCU, Threat Assessment Management Team

## Experience

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### Chief of Police, Director of Public Safety

04/2024 to Current

#### Florida Gulf Coast University – Fort Myers, FL

- Responsible for the operational and administrative management of police services, emergency management , and parking services
- Set and monitors objectives, performance indicators, and metrics to assess employee progress
- Lead strategic planning and staffing responsibilities
- Provide coordination, guidance, and process management for senior management involved in services and programs delivered to the university community
- Oversee operational, strategic, and financial performance for maximum results
- Responsible for formulating and administering the annual operating budget and ensuring appropriate expenditure of all funds allocated for department administration
- Provide leadership and direction in policy development and implementation
- Responsible for developing and maintaining partnerships throughout the University and community to attain departmental goals and objectives

**Chief, Special Investigative Unit (Broward County Public Schools Police) 06/2019 to 04/2024**

**Broward County Public Schools**

- Supported and supervised safety and security efforts for over 266,000 students in 241 schools and education centers within the nation's sixth-largest public school system
- Supported and supervised over 140 employees of the Special Investigative Unit (Broward County Public Schools Police), including all sworn personnel, research analysts, and specialists in the District Security Operations Center
- Supported and supervised processes all investigations to ensure the integrity of a workforce consisting of over 33,000 employees
- Coordinated with the Office of the Chief Fire Official and Office of Emergency Management for effective delivery of services
- Analyzed data, such as School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) and Behavioral Threat Assessment (BTA) data for resource allocation
- Worked with the Board, senior management team, and staff to leverage opportunities for growth and improvement in support of the overall mission
- Implemented comprehensive business plans, initiatives, and strategies to achieve optimum operational and financial results
- Directed human resources operations to support top talent recruitment and retention
- Served as the liaison with Professional Practices Services and the Education Practices Commission, State Department of Education, and law enforcement agencies at all levels

**Major, Special Investigative Unit**

10/2016 to 06/2019

**Broward County Public Schools**

- Supported and assisted the Chief in his responsibilities and acted as his designee as needed for the sixth-largest school district in the nation with over 271,000 students
- Supervised Special Investigative staff, which consisted of sworn and non-sworn, including giving direction and guidance
- Communicated and worked effectively with the Office of School Performance and Accountability, school/district administrators, community stakeholders, law enforcement, and community agencies to coordinate investigations and promote school safety
- Coordinated the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program, which included contract development with fourteen law enforcement agencies and program management
- Managed the Resident on Campus Security (ROCS) Program, which includes contract development with all stakeholders and program management
- Employed industry-standard interviewing and listening skills when talking to complainants and witnesses.
- Trained and monitored the performance of team members
- Organized campaigns for community awareness and outreach programs

## **Detective, Special Investigative Unit**

04/2001 to 10/2016

### **Broward County Public Schools**

- Served in various roles including Acting Chief and Acting Supervisor of Police Operations
- Trained personnel in investigative procedures, interviewing techniques, and evidence collection and processing strategies
- Interviewed witnesses and suspected perpetrators to better understand incidents and direct investigations
- Investigated incidents to collect evidence of wrongdoing
- Prepared detailed reports showing activities and findings of administrative and criminal investigations
- Collected case facts from complainants, witnesses, and suspects to build solid pictures of incident events
- Worked diligently to follow leads, obtain evidence, and collect statements to build a solid case for prosecutors

## **Public Safety Officer**

09/1991 to 04/2001

### **Parkland Public Safety – Parkland, FL**

- Served in various roles, including Officer In Charge, Detective, and School Resource Officer
- Coordinated law enforcement and firefighting services in support of emergency response
- Worked effectively with local agencies to control problematic activities and prevent a recurrence
- Prepared detailed reports outlining activities, observations, and findings for later review and use in official proceedings
- Investigated incidents and accidents to identify causes and possible criminal activities
- Patrolled to provide visible deterrence to crime and quickly respond to different types of emergencies