



# INVESTING IN POLICE LEADERS

The Detroit Police Department  
Leadership Academy at the  
Mike Ilitch School of Business

When they are part of a well-managed force, police officers are empowered to prevent crime and protect the public. As officers rise through the ranks, they require knowledge and skills not often taught in conventional law enforcement education.

Effective police departments need commanders who can manage personnel, incorporate technology, develop resources and build community relationships. This is particularly important in a large, urban force like the Detroit Police Department (DPD). Detroit's economic revival will continue its current trajectory only if residents and visitors feel

safe and protected. This means investing in effective, equitable and well-managed public safety.

In 2018, the Mike Ilitch School of Business at Wayne State University launched a new program to build management skills within the DPD and the Wayne State University Police Department (WSUPD). The Detroit Police Department Leadership Academy (DPDLA) equips department leaders with the tools and skills of high-achieving managers, so they can serve the community by building and maintaining a force that operates at peak performance.

## Business education built for Detroit police

The Detroit Police Department Leadership Academy is designed specifically for current leaders and officers seeking advanced responsibilities in the DPD and WSUPD. The curriculum addresses the unique challenges and high stakes of police work, where a team's effectiveness can be a matter of life or death.

Courses in the DPDLA cover contemporary management principles, finance, human resources, communication and leadership development. Participants learn through case studies that have clear connections to the business of police work.

The academy builds on officers' educational backgrounds, skills and work experiences, while offering opportunities to learn about the latest research on leadership issues and practices. Officers explore crucial topics such as leadership styles, group dynamics and conflict resolution. The program unites top thinkers and practitioners in an interactive environment that fosters creative problem-solving.

Nominated by their commanders in the DPD or WSUPD, officers complete 16 credits in five months and receive a Graduate Certificate in Business. The accelerated program provides students with approximately half the credits needed to obtain an M.B.A., with the hope that many officers will continue on to complete their degrees.

*"My initial goal was to simply earn my graduate certificate. After completing the DPDLA and seeing how it aligned to what I was doing professionally, it was a no-brainer to complete the M.B.A. program."*

**Commander Tiffany Stewart**  
M.B.A. student



## Support for dedicated officers

The DPDLA has educated 57 graduates to date, and 22 have continued toward completing an M.B.A. There is an urgent need to find additional scholarship support for these M.B.A. students. While the DPD and WSUPD provide tuition for their officers to attend the academy, graduates who pursue an M.B.A. must pay their own expenses.

By supporting M.B.A. scholarships for DPDLA graduates, you can help make Detroit a safer place to live and work. An advanced degree in business helps officers:

- **Accelerate their careers toward the executive level, where they can make an even greater impact on their department and community**
- **Adapt to changing environments by creating innovative crime-fighting programs that keep our neighborhoods safe**
- **Train fellow police officers in effective decision-making techniques**

To learn more about supporting Detroit's future police leaders, please contact our development team at 313-577-9212.



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