

## Summer camp teaches youth about forensic science with mock murder scenario

**Institute, WV** – Area youth are taking a cue from the popular CSI television series and learning about the science involved in crime scene investigation thanks to the Health Sciences and Technology Academy (HSTA) summer institute. The institute, hosted by West Virginia State University Extension Service, allows participants to view a mock murder scene and try to figure out “who did it?” The weeklong residential camp is being held Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, through Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, on the WVSU campus.

During the week, participants view a mock murder scene, interview suspects, use scientific knowledge to search for clues, and ultimately attempt to solve the crime. During the camp’s closing ceremony on Friday, the youth act out scenarios based on what they think took place at the scene of the crime.

“The kids have fun while they learn at this summer institute,” said Kelli Batch, Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development with WVSU Extension Service and director of the camp. “They are nurturing their math and science skills in a format that is unique and interesting to them.”

The forensics institute is one portion of what is a statewide HSTA curriculum created by West Virginia University and funded through the WV legislature. The program follows 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade minority and underrepresented students through their high school careers and into college, preparing them for science and healthcare careers. 2009 marks the program’s 15<sup>th</sup> year.

The closing ceremony for the HSTA forensic summer institute will be held in the Wilson Student Union on WVSU’s campus on Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. For more information, contact Kelli Batch at (304) 550-4722.

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