

Major Dawn Layman '97



Major Layman began her career in law enforcement as a police officer with the West Chester University Police Department. While at WCU she was instrumental in starting one of the first police bike patrols in PA. In 1991 she was named Rookie of the Year and in 1992, she was Department Officer of the Year. After moving to Lenexa in 1993, she became the Division Commander for the Lenexa Police Staff Services Department which includes technology, dispatch, technical services, property and evidence and public service officers. She is also dedicated to mentoring and developing others, and places special emphasis in developing women in law enforcement careers. As President of the National Association of Women in Law Enforcement, she has worked tirelessly to initiate its first Strategic Plan and also stepped in as its Executive Director. Major Layman is known throughout the Kansas City Metro Law Enforcement Community as a strong and inclusive leader. She was the project lead in securing body worn cameras, license plate readers, and incorporated video traffic technology, by acquiring several grants to pay for the systems. Every sworn officer and many of the code enforcement personnel and firefighter wear a body camera because of her testimony to Kansas Legislators opposing a mandate requiring all officers to wear a camera. Because of her strong, Major Layman is the recipient of the “Innovation Award”, “Vision Award” and the “2015 Motorola Woman Law Enforcement Executive of the Year.” She is also active in many charitable programs including the Kansas Special Olympics, the Polar Bear Plunge, and Tip-a-Cop. Major Layman earned her Master of Public Administration from the University of Kansas and her BS in Criminal Justice from WCU. She also graduated from the FBI National Academy. She exemplifies everything the WCU Distinguished Award stands for: leading change, managing people, building coalitions, driving results and giving back to her community and her profession by building the next generation of women law enforcement executives.