



NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

MEDIA CONTACT

Ashleigh Webb
Public Relations & Comms Manager
760.889.3494 8186 | awebb@nu.edu

Former San Diego Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman Joins National University

Zimmerman brings over 30 years of law enforcement experience to new role supporting the University's efforts to expand educational access to public safety groups nationwide

February 12, 2019 – San Diego, CA – Former San Diego Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman, a 35-year law enforcement veteran, has been named a Chancellor appointee serving in the capacity of a public safety and leadership consultant for the private, nonprofit [National University](#). In her new role, Zimmerman will guest lecture on leadership topics, collaborate with faculty and law enforcement officials nationwide to inform public safety related curriculum, and contribute to teaching at National University, which has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* for having among the Top 20 Best Online Graduate Criminal Justice programs in the nation.

Zimmerman, who received the San Diego Police Foundation Women in Blue Award for her commitment to making San Diego one of the safest large cities in the United States, has been recognized widely for her commitment to community outreach and proven technologies in support of public safety. Zimmerman's appointment represents National University's dedication to establishing deep partnerships with industry to identify accelerated degree pathways and develop market-ready employees to meet 21st-century workforce needs.

"Chief Shelley Zimmerman has been a trailblazer for the law enforcement community throughout her career, and we are honored that she will be joining National University to further enhance our public safety workforce partnerships and criminal justice programs," said Dr. Michael Cunningham, Chancellor of the National University System, which includes National University, City University of Seattle, John F. Kennedy University, and Northcentral University. "National University is proud to support law enforcement professionals who protect and serve our communities every day and is committed to providing affordable, accessible education to public safety professionals to advance their careers and reach their goals."

Zimmerman, who holds a degree in criminal justice from The Ohio State University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, will help to expand National University's unique offer to substantially reduce the length of time and cost for public safety professionals to earn a degree. The University's new [credit alignment offer](#) articulates prior learning experiences from state-approved training academies such as California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), to waive qualifying credit for degrees in criminal justice, public administration and homeland security & emergency management. In addition, the University also has made available 25 percent tuition scholarships to public safety employees and a 10 percent tuition reduction to their dependents to pursue a degree from the University's more than 100 programs offered at campuses or online.

Studies indicate that these kinds of initiatives benefit general public security and community safety through the ongoing professionalization and education of law enforcement officers in the latest approaches and skills relevant to their daily job. Also, having a college degree is valuable to retired officers seeking new career opportunities.

Chief Zimmerman, who believes in community policing and that public safety is a shared responsibility said of her new role, “Making a positive difference in people’s lives is what inspired me to work in law enforcement, and I am thrilled to work with National University to help champion lifelong learning for those who are so bravely serving in our public safety sector to build stronger and safer communities.”

During her tenure as Chief from 2014-2018, San Diego experienced historic low crime rates, including the lowest homicide rate per capita of any of the largest cities in the country, and attaining the lowest overall crime in five decades making San Diego the safest large city in America. Some of Zimmerman's assignments included Vice, Narcotics, Internal Affairs, and Multi-Cultural Community Relations. She also assisted in the security planning for San Diego events such as the Super Bowl, Republican National Convention, Comic Con and MLB All-Star game. Zimmerman has received numerous awards and citations throughout her career which included: The San Diego Press Club Headliner of the year award for her undercover work, the San Diego Business Journal's Woman Who Mean Business Exemplary Award for her civic involvement with both the business and residential communities, and the inaugural San Diego Police Foundation Women in Blue Award for her commitment to public safety.

Veteran-founded National University offers a [Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration](#) and a [Master of Criminal Justice](#). Notable alumni who have earned degrees through National University and have achieved prominent posts in law enforcement include former San Diego Police Chief and Mayor Jerry Sanders, Stockton Police Chief Eric Jones, Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims, and John Bolduc, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol who was formerly Chief of the San Diego Harbor Police.

About National University

Founded in 1971, National University is among the largest, private, nonprofit universities in California. With more than 150,000 alumni, National University is the flagship institution of the National University System. National University is dedicated to making lifelong learning opportunities accessible, challenging, and relevant to a diverse population of students. Four schools and two colleges – the College of Letters and Sciences; the Sanford College of Education; the School of Business and Management; the School of Engineering and Computing; the School of Health and Human Services; and the School of Professional Studies – offer more than 100 graduate and undergraduate degrees and 23 teacher credentials. Programs are offered at locations throughout California and across the nation and are also available online. National University is headquartered in La Jolla, California. nu.edu