UNT DALLAS, MMHPI PARTNER TO ADVANCE CARUTH POLICE INSTITUTE AS LEADER IN POLICE TRAINING AND RESEARCH; ROCKPORT POLICE CHIEF NAMED TO BOARD

With aid of police chiefs, CPI will formulate innovative solutions to the most complex policing problems.

Dallas (December 10, 2019) – The University of North Texas at Dallas and Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI) have united to transform the Caruth Police Institute (CPI) into one of the premier police training, policy analysis, technical assistance and research organizations in Texas and nationally.

This engagement brings together leadership and resources from these two organizations, as well as from police departments around the state and nonprofit community leaders to formulate solutions to the most complex and pressing issues facing police departments today, such as increasing police workforce, reducing police suicides and addressing the opioid crisis on the front lines.

This reinvigorated CPI will launch with a media event at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at the Welcome Center in the Student Center on the UNT Dallas campus. CPI has been a part of UNT Dallas since its inception in 2009.

"By bringing MMHPI's abundant skill sets to CPI, we can increase the reach and scope of our training, add for the first time a powerful research component, raise the visibility of CPI in the community and become one of the most important police training institutes in America. It is all possible," UNT Dallas President Bob Mong said. "I want to thank the Communities Foundation of Texas and the Caruth Foundation for their continued support of CPI and this new engagement with MMHPI."

Central to strengthening CPI's priorities of improving public safety through police officer training, policy analysis, and applied police science research, is the creation of an 18-person

Executive Advisory Board bolstered by the inclusion of a dozen police chiefs from departments across Texas and led by Board Chair, Irving Chief of Police Jeff Spivey.

The advisory board also includes Dallas Police Chief U. Renee Hall and Assistant Chief David Pughes, Arlington Police Chief Will Johnson, Rockport Police Chief Greg Stevens, plus police chiefs from Garland, Carrollton, Sherman, Willow Park, Austin, Abilene, Odessa, and the Dallas County Community College District.

"I am excited about the opportunity to work with a renowned group of practitioners and academics as we revitalize and relaunch the Caruth Police Institute to prepare the next generation of law enforcement professionals," Stevens said.

The police chiefs will play a critical role in guiding strategic planning to enhance CPI's foundation through assessing the training program curriculum, developing a policy analysis and technical assistance division and establishing a research plan. Under CPI's new structure, MMHPI will provide executive leadership, headed by interim executive director B.J. Wagner, and will work in close collaboration with UNT Dallas President Mong, and UNT Dallas Provost Betty Stewart.

"The Caruth Police Institute represents a unique, academic-practitioner model in police science, and serves as a resource for law enforcement officers all across Texas," Wagner said. "The new collaboration with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute enhances CPI's existing expertise in police policy and adds to its ability to conduct research, evaluate programs and improve police operations, which will allow CPI to grow into one of the finest law enforcement policy institutes in Texas and the country. I am honored to lead the Caruth Police Institute during this period of revitalization."

CPI receives ongoing operational funding from Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT). CPI was established with substantial seed funding from the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Fund at CFT.

"We are extremely excited and supportive of this new partnership between UNT Dallas and MMHPI," said Dave Scullin, President and CEO of Communities Foundation of Texas. "Working together, the two institutions will increase the capacity of the Caruth Police Institute to play an even more significant role in helping to address the modern challenges facing law enforcement professionals in North Texas and beyond."

ABOUT UNT DALLAS
The University of North Texas at Dallas empowers students, transforms lives and strengthens communities. UNT Dallas is the fastest-growing public university in Texas and the only public, accredited 4-year university in the City of Dallas. UNT Dallas is the most affordable 4-year university in Dallas-Fort Worth and ranks No. 1 in the state for lowest student debt upon graduation. UNT Dallas includes the UNT Dallas College of Law in Downtown Dallas and is part of the University of North Texas System.

ABOUT MEADOWS MENTAL HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE
Since its public launch in 2014, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI) has helped Texas legislators, government officials, members of the judiciary, and local leaders identify systemic mental health needs and solutions, quickly becoming Texas's most trusted source for data-driven mental health policy. MMHPI is helping Texas leaders address the mental health crisis in our jails and emergency rooms, improve access to care for veterans and their families, shift the focus of new investments toward early intervention, and expand the mental health workforce. Learn more about MMHPI at texasstateofmind.org.

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