

NEW YORK STATE EVALUATION SUMMARY

LAW ENFORCEMENT DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAIN THE TRAINER

22 sessions, 292 participants (283 evaluations), 122 departments

Total officers that can now receive Disability Awareness Training: 13,253+

List of represented departments at frdat.niagara.edu

Overall rating	Excellent – 164	Very good – 112	Good – 14	Fair – 0	Poor – 0
Content	Much too basic – 1	Too basic – 1	About right – 266	A bit too complex – 15	Much too complex – 0
Length	Much too short – 3	Too short – 55	About right – 205	A bit too long – 20	Much too long – 2
Visual aids	Excellent – 130	Very good – 119	Good – 33	Fair – 4	Poor – 0
Handouts	Excellent – 146	Very good – 111	Good – 27	Fair – 0	Poor – 0
Presenter	Excellent – 204	Very good – 73	Good – 6	Fair – 2	Poor – 0

Comments about training in general:

- “Should be an in-service (mandatory) for all law enforcement”
- “During my tenure as a full time officer, I wish we would have had this training, I would not have had to learn this the hard way. Education is the key to success in dealing with these individuals with disabilities.
- “Content is great. Learned useful information that I can apply to the road. Many things that I thought I already knew were actually incorrect.”
- “This class has opened my eyes. I feel more aware to handle situations. Teaching this course will be rewarding.”
- “Too short. A more in-depth course should be included for academy training.”

Comments about training specifics:

- “Trainer manual was excellent. Extremely easy to follow. One of the best I have ever used.”
- “I enjoyed watching the videos. The police examples helped with dealing with real situations and how I would respond when/if in those same situations.”
- “Great materials presented, including a flash drive with materials so that it could be used elsewhere for training.”

Comments about Dave:

- “Dave is extremely knowledgeable on these topics and is very well spoken.”
- “Dave was very engaging and very easy to listen to. He kept me interested and wanting to know more.”
- “Knowledge of material by research, education, and personal experience proved very effective.”
- “Extremely impressed. As a parent of autistic children, I highly appreciate the manner in which it was taught.”
- “Dave Whalen is very passionate. He teaches and explains each course with current events.”
- “I would recommend this instructor to everyone. Excellent command of topic. Great use of visual aids. He truly seems to care and makes it contagious.”

Testimonies:

“I really wasn’t too enthusiastic about attending this training. I thought, ‘how is disability training relevant to the police department?’ Soon after the training started I realized it’s very relevant to the police department and first responders. Whether a person with a disability is a victim or offender you need to realize why this person is responding or not responding in a certain way. Also it’s good to know how to communicate if you know what kind of disability they have. It’s very important to know what to do and not to do especially for the victim’s sake. This training is very relevant to police officers.”

- Police officer, 27 years on the job

“I am writing to let you know that last week, I attended the train-the-trainer for FIRST RESPONDERS – DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING at the Law Enforcement Training Director’s meeting in Saratoga Springs taught by David Whalen. In my over thirty-years of law-enforcement experience, I have attended many, many trainings, including the prestigious FBI National Academy. I must say that David’s presentation was on par with the finest trainings I’ve attended. I must admit, at the start, I was not overly enthused to find out that we would be spending two (2) entire days on this topic...HOWEVER, David’s passion and energy for the topic kept me interested and tuned in and I learned more about common disabilities that law-enforcement is most likely to come in contact with than I even knew existed. The instructor/trainer notebook and PowerPoints were as professional as I have seen and very easy to understand and teach from. Kudos to Niagara University for this program and for DAVID WHALEN. The presentation was inspiring and once I returned I took immediate steps to incorporate what I had learned into teachings at the recruit and in-service levels.”

- Law Enforcement Training Program Coordinator, 30+ years in law enforcement

“I just wanted to take the time to thank you for the training over the past couple of days. Dave clearly has a passion for the work that he is doing and it is evident in the way he presented the material. I have attended quite a few trainings in the 11 years I have been doing this job and this one ranks right at the top. This is a topic that I didn’t realize covered so much and is so important to our jobs every day. So on behalf of the Geneva Police Department I would like to thank you and Dave for the opportunity to pass along this important training to the officers of the Geneva Police Department.”

- Sgt. Michael Passalacqua, Geneva PD (NY)