



**SOUTHWEST**  
TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**City of Memphis, Southwest Tennessee Community College and Tennessee Promise  
Announce MPD Career Opportunity - 'Blue Path'**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Mayor Jim Strickland, Memphis Police Director Michael Rallings, and Southwest Tennessee Community College President Dr. Tracy Hall announced today a new program offering no less than 100 graduating high-school seniors full-time employment with the Memphis Police Department (MPD) beginning June 2017.

“**Blue Path**” is a pathway for young people to serve in police services and develop as well-rounded, community-focused police officers in the city of Memphis. This all-expense paid college education will result in an associate’s degree in criminal justice from Southwest Tennessee Community College and a position as a Police Service Technician with MPD.

“Blue Path is a wonderfully creative solution that affords meaningful career and education opportunities for our young people, while helping to attract bright young talent to our police force, said Mayor Jim Strickland. “ I could not be more pleased to launch this program and hope that many seniors will use this pipeline to graduate to the best in blue.”

“I believe the Blue Path program can become the major pipeline for our future police workforce and I couldn’t be more excited about the opportunity it will provide for our young people” Director Rallings said.

Southwest Tennessee Community College (STCC) has worked with the MPD Training Academy to create an academic curriculum for an associate’s degree (AAS) in criminal justice. Students will complete coursework together as a cohort over a period of four semesters, during which time they will be employed by MPD as Police Service Technicians with an annual salary of \$26,000 per year. Once they complete the degree and reach age 21, graduates are eligible to undergo MPD’s sworn officer training and become a police officer.

“We are so pleased to deliver a customized workforce solution for MPD. Thanks to Tennessee Promise, we will provide a college degree completely free of charge to students and free of charge to MPD,” said Dr. Hall, president of Southwest Tennessee Community College.

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“This is a perfect example of how we had envisioned Tennessee Promise to work. We see, in this case, how it can be a tremendous workforce development tool for Tennessee employers,” said Mike Krause, executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and a principal architect of the Tennessee Promise Program under Governor Bill Haslam.

Human Resources Chief Alexandria Smith added, “Filling our ranks is important, and we see this as a vehicle to expand MPD’s talent pool as well as an investment in our city’s future by producing well-rounded police officers.”

Students intending to apply for the BluePath program ARE REQUIRED to attend one of five BluePath informational sessions this month. Parents or guardians are encouraged, but not required to attend. All sessions will be held at Southwest Tennessee Community College’s Macon Campus (5983 Macon Cove) Bornblum Library Auditorium (ML 122). Free parking is available in the main parking lot in front of the Bornblum Library.

Dates and times for informational sessions are below. The sessions will begin promptly at the designated start times and students are encouraged to arrive 15 minutes early to park and get seated.

- Saturday, Oct 22 – 9-11 a.m.
- Saturday, Oct 22 – 3-5 p.m.
- Monday, Oct 24 – 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct 25 – 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct 26 – 4:30-6:30 p.m.

To be eligible for Blue Path, all students must submit an application for Tennessee Promise by November 1. Information and application assistance will be provided at Blue Path informational sessions.

For more information, visit the Blue Path website at [www.BluePathMemphis.com](http://www.BluePathMemphis.com).

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