

the Denver Police Department (DPD). According to Katie Kaukinen, director of the BACJ program on the Colorado Springs campus, students have worked with the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) on the anti-graffiti unit, research and analysis and domestic violence intervention.

Mays was accepted into DPD's volunteer CSI program, processing property crimes in the crime lab. "It's nice to be surrounded by people interested in similar things."

For Martinez, interning at the Denver Center for Crime Victims led to a job. After serving for a semester as a hotline counselor—an experience Martinez says opened her eyes to the areas in which citizens need counseling and funding support after criminal activity—she was hired as a program assistant. Now, she sets up interpretation appointments for citizens who don't speak English.

Dodge gives faculty and staff credit for helping students understand the realities of their future career choices. BACJ instructors are recruited from

the local community: Richard Rosenthal, former independent police monitor; Donna Starr-Gimeno, a DPD lieutenant; Judge Richard Hall; Susan Jones, warden of the Centennial Corrections Facility; and Commander Rod Walker and Sergeant John Ingram of CSPD.

Hardy coordinates events allowing students to interact with community and law enforcement professionals. Last fall, he assembled a career panel that included Greeley Mayor Ed Clark, Karen Blackwell of the Denver Children's Advocacy Center and Christine Zorn, a U.S. probation officer.

On paper, the program is new. But it already thrives in SPA, due to the school's powerful relationships with local law enforcement, criminal justice and judicial groups.

"Go to school for what you are passionate about," recommends Mays. "Be self-fulfilled—it makes it easier to follow through."

▼ *Nina Martinez hopes to start a nonprofit organization to serve children isolated by the criminal justice system.*



Partnering with Our Courts

The School of Public Affairs enjoys a strong partnership with Our Courts, a collaboration between the Colorado Judicial Institute and the Colorado Bar Association that provides education to civic, community and business groups.

Judge Russell Carparelli of the Colorado Court of Appeals is concerned about a lack of forums for judges to engage such groups about the courts. "But with the advent of such high-profile trials as O.J. Simpson, Terry Schiavo and the Enron scandal," he says, "a dialogue about the role of judges and the courts is taking place in the media, the workplace, even in homes. Who is more qualified to inform the public than the judiciary?"

To help prepare judges to engage civic groups, Our Courts turned to Mary Dodge for assistance in developing provocative presentations. Her students help determine which sections will resonate with the public.

The partnership is working well for Caparelli. "It's been quite helpful."

