

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHAT: Public Seminar on "Preventing Theft in YOUR Nonprofit Organization,"
WHEN: 6:00-8:00 p.m. Wednesday May 16, 2018
WHERE: CCBC, Room 6010 of the Health Sciences Center, in Center Township.

Beaver County District Attorney's Office is Collaborating with the Beaver County Legislative Delegation and CCBC to present a free public program on anti-fraud and best practices for Volunteer Organizations and Small Nonprofits. Main Speaker is Fred Croop, Ed.D., M.B.A., professor of business at Misericordia University of Dallas, Luzerne Co., Pennsylvania.

Beaver, Pa. – Dr. Fred Croop of the Department of Business at Misericordia University is a respected authority on fraud prevention and best practices for Volunteer/Small Non-Profit Organizations. The event is free, and open to the public.

Beaver County District Attorney David J. Lozier, Esq., in cooperation with the entire Beaver County delegation, State Sen. Elder Vogel; Jr.; State Sen. Camera Bartolotta; State Rep. Jim Marshall; State Representative Robert F. Matzie; State Rep. Jim Christiana; and State Rep. Aaron Bernstine are co-sponsoring the program: "Preventing Theft in YOUR Nonprofit Organization." The Community College of Beaver County is hosting the event as part of its continuing commitment to the citizens of Beaver County.

Dr. Croop developed the Internal Controls and Federal Tax Exemption Basics for All-Volunteer Organizations Resource Manual with his business students in 2015. The manual is available via a free download online for all-volunteer organizations, such as volunteer fire departments, youth recreation leagues, parent teacher organizations, and more. The complete manual is available at www.misericordia.edu/nonprofitcontrols.

At the request of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), Dr. Croop also developed the Financial Management and Internal Controls Guide for Volunteer Emergency Services Organizations. Soon, all-volunteer organizations will be required to follow the guide in order to be eligible for grant funding

from DCED. Dr. Croop will review the guide and answer questions after his presentation at the seminar at CCBC in Center Township.

In recent months, Dr. Croop has collaborated with numerous law enforcement officials, elected leaders and others throughout Pennsylvania to present workshops and informational sessions that offer practical processes, procedures and internal auditing controls for small organizations with few or no employees.

"The occurrence of financial irregularities in volunteer organizations is unfortunate in many ways," Dr. Croop said. "An honest accounting mistake hits the nonprofit in the pocketbook, but embezzlement or fraud hurts the entity financially and in the eyes of the community. Either way, the organization and the people it serves suffer."

"The Beaver County District Attorney's Office is pleased to sponsor this program to our community" with the assistance of Beaver County's entire State Legislature. "Every month the Beaver County District Attorney prosecutes at least one officer of a volunteer or small non-profit community organization for theft of funds. The presidents and treasurers of these organizations are often highly respected in their community and beyond suspicion - - until funds go missing." These thefts only occur because volunteers and boards fail to maintain even the most basic accounting practices. Dr. Croop will educate us all on straight forward accounting techniques to prevent fraud. Dr. Croop's presentation and his resource manuals will help the civic organizations of Beaver County better able to safeguard their finances resources for the betterment of our community."

The Misericordia University presentation by Dr. Croop focuses on nonprofit organizations that do not have employees, where it is more difficult to develop and implement standard internal controls to protect finances and assets. District Attorney Lozier and Criminal defense Attorney Charles F. Bowers, III, both strong advocates for volunteer and civic organizations, are going to address specific cases of financial mismanagement they have worked with in recent years and how nonprofits can avoid similar situations from occurring.

"The financial cost of not creating and enforcing internal controls when humans are entrusted with cash and other assets can mean the end of a much-needed service in the community," Dr. Croop added. "People are human and prone to unforeseen mistakes and temptation."

For more information about Misericordia University, please call (570) 674-6400 or visit www.misericordia.edu. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1924, Misericordia University is Luzerne County's first four-year college and offers 45 academic programs on the graduate and undergraduate levels in full- and part-time formats. Misericordia University ranks in the top tier of the Best Regional Universities – North category of U.S. News and World Report's 2018 edition of Best Colleges. The Princeton Review recognizes MU as a 2018 Best Northeastern College and MONEY Magazine includes Misericordia in its 2017-18 "Best Colleges" list.

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