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## Agency News

### Victim Services Division hosts Texas Victim Assistance Training Academy in October

From October 2 through 5, TDCJ's Victim Services Division will host the second Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Academy. This three-and-a-half day interactive classroom training event is designed for new victim services professionals and volunteers who routinely work with victims of crime but have less than three years' experience in the field.

The Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse, overseen by the Victim Services Division (VSD), collaborates with victim services experts and key stakeholders to develop the Academy curriculum, which is based on the victims' experience with the criminal justice system and focused on their needs and rights from the moment of victimization through the investigation, pre-indictment, prosecution and the post-conviction phases. Other topics covered during the Academy include the influence of culture when working to support crime victims, workplace ethics, and resiliency for crime victims and victim services providers.

### Texas Victim Assistance Training

## T★V★A★T Academy

Held at the Public Safety Operations and Training Center in Georgetown, the Academy will host expert speakers to discuss a variety of topics such as crime victims' rights, ethics in victim services, stress management and effective communication skills. The TVAT Academy faculty includes a diverse group of victim services practitioners who have expertise in various victim issues, and staff from other institutions that support victim intervention and restoration.

Commenting on the TVAT, VSD Director Angie McCown said "The goal of the Academy is to teach foundational skills necessary to serve victims of violent crime, the impor-

tance of victim-centered service delivery and to encourage and support multidisciplinary teamwork throughout the criminal justice process."

Registration and attendance for the TVAT Academy are free of charge, while travel expenses are paid by participants. ●