

# THINK PUBLIC SAFETY IS BORING? I

## Riverside police and a local tech company band together to show students the latest technology.

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PHOTOS: STAN LIM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detective Aaron Brandt of the Riverside Police Department's Technical Services Unit shows off some of the latest technology Tuesday at Bourns Inc. The department is hosting two weeklong academies to show students cutting-edge operations.



Many students will be high school seniors, and police hope they'll consider law enforcement careers.



Two robots used by the Riverside Police Department's Technical Services Unit are displayed for the students. The students' project might be to build and code a robot of their own.



**PHOTOS: STAN LIM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

**Detectives Aaron Brandt and Theresa Sivula address a group of students, many from North High School**





**Gordon Bourns, chairman and CEO of Bourns Inc., talks to the students. The Riverside company's Technology Center was the site of the presentation.**

Thirty high school students from Riverside jumped and gasped with surprise. The Riverside Police Department's Technical Services Unit set off a "shock tube" used to remote

The loud pop and bright flash of the blast astounded the students, though Branford regularly uses the device regularly in a variety of situations – including disarming explosives.

The students were the first of two groups to participate in the Science, Technology, and Public Safety program put on by the Riverside Police Department and Riverside e

The purpose of the weeklong program – the first of its kind in Riverside – is to educate students about various agencies and to foster their interests in pursuing public safety or law enforcement careers, said Gordon Bourns.

"We would like to have the students know that there are some fantastic careers

Most of the students in the first session attended John W. North High School. Lt. Christian Dinco said. Many of the students were entering law enforcement careers.

Alex Flores, 18, said seeing some of the day-to-day operations at the Police Dep

"They have shown us a lot of their everyday stuff," Flores said. "It's been really i

The program kicked off Monday at the Bourns Technology Center with a keynote presentation on Life demonstrations by the Riverside Fire Department. Other presentations in the program covered investigations, computer forensics, police equipment, recovering information from devices, and analyzing fingerprints and blood samples.

"There's been a lot of hands-on stuff, which gives us a good chance to learn from the experts," said Anguire Arias. "It's a lot better than just sitting in front of a teacher."

Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey, who spoke to the students briefly Tuesday afternoon, said the program is a great way to bridge the gap between police and the public.

“It’s a great collaborative effort that enhances faith in police and educates students

During the last two days of the program, the students get to choose an elective: coding a robot; developing a mobile app that would assist in an emergency situation for law enforcement or public safety agency. They will also break into six teams of projects that would assist Riverside public safety workers.

On Friday, the last day of the program, they will present the projects to a panel of judges and the top three teams.

Though all of the students will leave the program with STEM LEAPS certification with heightened goals of going to college to pursue careers in public safety.

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