I would like to nominate Christopher Levering for the Dr. Paul Ferrara Award. Investigator Levering has been assigned to Roanoke Police Department’s Forensic Services Unit since 2006. During his career in Forensics, Inv. Levering has attended the Virginia Forensic Science Academy, the Fire Marshall’s Academy, and the National Forensic Academy. Inv. Levering is also 1 of only 2 officers in the history of the Roanoke Police Department to be certified by the IAI as a Crime Scene Analyst, a certification that he has held since 2012. Not only is Inv. Levering the longest tenured member of RPD’s Forensic Unit, he has also trained every other member of the Unit, including his current supervisor. During his career Inv. Levering has been involved in more than 100 homicide investigations, as well as over 250 suspicious death investigations.

While Inv. Levering has long been the go to investigator for death investigations, his commitment to the field of forensics extends well beyond just the scene. Inv. Levering has spearheaded RPD’s acquisition of a NIBIN terminal and is currently responsible for training the other members of FSU in its use. Inv. Levering has also been the lead instructor of all evidence related classes taught at the Roanoke Police Academy, and to date has instructed well over 400 police recruits in evidence matters. In addition to the Basic Academy, Inv. Levering has also been the lead instructor for Roanoke’s Basic Evidence School, a two week basic evidence academy, that is taught to not only officers from Roanoke but also Roanoke County, Salem, Vinton, Botetourt County, Franklin County, Blacksburg, Va Tech, and numerous other agencies. During that course Inv. Levering teaches everything from Crime Scene Photography, to scene sketching, firearms, etc. To date, Inv. Levering has taught approximately 200 law enforcement officers from Southwest Virginia how to properly respond to, process, document and collect evidence from crime scenes.

Inv. Levering’s dedication to the field of forensics includes more than just his dedication to crime scenes. Inv. Levering is regularly called upon to provide school presentations to all ages, not only in Roanoke but also in surrounding jurisdictions. Inv. Levering has been involved with presentations ranging from elementary aged children all the way up to college aged students. Inv. Levering regularly provides presentations to the Criminal Justice students at Botetourt Technical, North Cross, and others.

You would be hard-pressed to find anyone who has dedicated more of their time and knowledge to enhancing the field of forensics in Virginia. Investigator Christopher Levering is the epitome of what every Crime Scene Investigator in Virginia should strive to be.