

Behind the Badge

Allen Cox, the 2017 Schoolcraft College Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, started his higher learning journey by taking a few classes at Schoolcraft College after graduating high school. He went on to pursue a bachelor's degree in political science and criminal justice and a master's degree in administration and started his career as a corrections officer with the Federal Bureau of Prisons in 1991.

But he knew he needed to earn one more very important credential to further his law enforcement career, so he returned to Schoolcraft College. As a graduate of the Police Academy at Schoolcraft College's Wayne County Regional Police Training Center in 1998 he was immediately hired as a patrolman by the Plymouth Police Department.

Today, with knowledge, experience and FBI training, he holsters his .40 caliber Glock semi-automatic, pins on his badge and spends his days as Plymouth's Chief of Police and director of Public Safety. He has served as Chief since 2010 and even found time to continue his studies and graduate from Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command.

"When Plymouth offered me the chief's job," said Cox, "I hesitated. I knew that it was an appointment, which is subject to the whim of the administration. But it's turned out very well for me and my family.

"While I never planned to be chief when I started my career, I've enjoyed my time in the position. Naturally, there are days that I miss being in the patrol car and responding to calls for service. Being chief, however, has afforded me the opportunity to impact how the department does business."

One example of the very positive impact he has had on the department is the awards and commendation program he



Chief Cox accepts congratulations from Board of Trustees Chairman Brian Broderick and Dr. Conway Jeffress.

created. "It is a nice way for employees to be publicly recognized in front of their family and friends for going above and beyond," he said.

In recognition of his demonstrated commitment to education and lifelong learning and dedication to improving the community, Chief Cox received the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees' Distinguished Alumni Award for 2017 at the college's commencement ceremony in May.

AT RIGHT, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: The Cox Family. Dad Al Sr., daughter Chloe, wife Suzanne, Chief Cox, daughter Alexandria, and mom Becky.

