

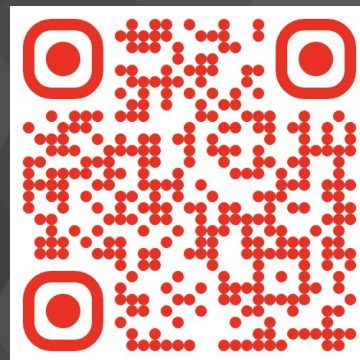


laSFSI

2026 FIRE INSTRUCTORS CONFERENCE

April 11th & 12th

SCAN TO REGISTER







EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday- April 10th

7:30 pm Social Event @ Magee's Irish Pub
1610 SW Main Street
Ankeny, IA 50023

Saturday- April 11th

7:30 am Registration

8:00 am Welcome by IaSFSI President Al McCune
FSTB Update by Bureau Chief Jess Dunn
FSTB Field Programs Update by Russ Grossman
FSTB Certification Update by Gary Howard
State Fire Marshal Division Update by SFM Dan Wood
ISFSI Update

9:00 am Dave McGlynn
The Training Officer: Do You Have What It Takes?

12:00 pm Lunch

12:45 pm - 2:00 pm Scott Meinecke
Building a Team to Replace You!

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Erin McGruder
Aggressive Adult Learning

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Glenn Schlessner
Bridging the gap, training in the rural fire service.

5:30 pm Supper

6:00 pm Membership meeting

7:00 pm Jones and Bartlett - Updates for Navigate

Sunday- April 12th

8:00 am - 9:30 am Pat Dunn
Leadership journey: How my failures have shaped me

9:30 am - 12:30 pm Erin McGruder
Real Life Training for Real Life Tactics

12:30 pm End of Conference

VENDORS





Dave McGlynn has been in Fire & Emergency Services since 2001, with a career spanning municipal and federal roles. He currently serves as a professional Fire Chief within Federal Fire and Emergency Services. Over his tenure he has had experiences as a Firefighter, Driver/Operator, Company Officer, Training Officer, and Operations Chief. Dave has shared his knowledge as a featured speaker at FDIC International and serves on the advisory board for FDIC and Fire Engineering.

An accomplished Fire Instructor and Public Speaker, Dave has contributed articles to Fire Engineering Magazine and FIREFIGHTERNATION as well as hosts the Fire Engineering Podcast "The Training Officer" He holds a Bachelor of Science in Fire & Emergency Services Administration and a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership. Dave is also the author of *The Training Officer: Do You Have What It Takes?* Currently, he is finalizing a project he co-authored with Frank Ricci and David Polikoff titled "Setting The Standard," which should be available through Fire Engineering Books in Spring 2026.

The Training Officer: Do You Have What It Takes?

This dynamic and introspective Training Officer Development course is based on the book written by Dave McGlynn which is designed for current and aspiring training officers, as well as leaders within fire & emergency services. With a primary focus on transcending beyond mere instructional roles, this course aims to ignite a deep-seated passion for teaching and developing impactful training programs. Recognizing the challenges faced by training officers who may lack firsthand experience in critical operational aspects and addresses the fundamental need for authenticity in training modules.

Participants will be encouraged to participate in discussions, sharing experiences of both exemplary and deficient training officers, fostering a constructive environment for learning and growth. This interactive approach not only aids in identifying effective traits of training leadership but also serves as a mirror for self-reflection on one's instructional methodologies.

The curriculum extends beyond the confines of fire service training, incorporating lessons from credible leaders throughout America, providing a broader perspective on leadership and instructional excellence. This course is dedicated to offer a "gut check," a moment for participants to self-reflect and evaluate their own qualities, strengths, and areas for improvement as training officers.

The overarching goal of this course is to inspire training officers to cultivate a learning environment that resonates with their passion for the job, thereby instilling the same enthusiasm in their trainees. It emphasizes the importance of respecting the rich culture of fire & emergency services, establishing credibility through genuine experience and knowledge, and fostering an atmosphere where passion for the profession is the cornerstone of every training program.

By the end of this course, participants should be equipped with the necessary tools and insights to avoid common pitfalls associated with training firefighters. They will be empowered to transform challenges into opportunities for growth, ultimately becoming the inspiring, credible, and passionate training officers they aspired to be and the ones their teams truly deserve.



Erin McGruder has been a firefighter/EMT for more than 20 years. She serves as a Planning Team Manager for a FEMA USAR. She is a Planning Team Manager and retired canine handler for a State USAR team. McGruder has specialized in curriculum and instructor development as a fire service state training agency staff member for more than 10 years. She holds a master's degree in public affairs and is currently studying educational psychology and adult learning at the doctoral level. McGruder is a National Fallen Firefighter Foundation Fellow and volunteers as a state advocate for the Everyone Goes Home program. Additionally, she serves as a director for the International Society for Fire Service Instructors and works with First Arriving.

Aggressive Adult Learning

In this session, students will discuss how academic assumptions of adult learners apply to firefighters - and how to make training better based on what our students and instructors need.

Real Life Training for Real Life Tactics

This discussion-based session will explore the need to step away from the traditional lecture-based classroom to deliver training that meets your real-life emergency response needs.

2026 OFFICER'S

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