Timothy A. Braaten
Executive Director

TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

COMMENT ON OUR PROFFESSION

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Understanding

"Teaching is the Highest Form of Understanding" – Aristotle

The Texas Commission Law Enforcement of Standards and Education today has over 16,000 certified instructors.

"Certified" means that these individuals have been exposed to instructional techniques and methods. They have been instructed how to instruct, but have they learned the art of teaching.

To Aristotle, teaching required understanding. If we are instructing with understanding, we are teaching. If we are instructing without understanding our subject matter, we will only be instructing.

An experienced and revered teacher once told me, "I seem to learn more and more every time I teach this subject." To her, greater understanding came from teaching. Sounds like the "which came first" question: the chicken or the egg. Whether teaching requires understanding, or greater understanding comes from teaching; I think we can all agree there is a big difference between instructing and teaching.

One analogy might be that, "it isn't important what is written in these Executive Director comments; what is important is what you read." I remember scolding my son with the comment, "that is not what I told you to do." His reply was, "I did what you told me to do." That day I learned the true measure of communication, and that education is not what we say or what we instruct, but rather what the receivers of the communication hear and what the students learn.

As I go about my business, I am going to continue to seek understanding. Join me. It looks like a lifelong journey.