



CLASS OF 2021



John Hunkiar

Chief John Hunkiar is entering his 31st year in the areas of law enforcement and school safety and security. Born and raised in Miami, John began his college journey at TCC in 1986, and earned his law enforcement certification from Miami Dade College of Justice in 1990. In 2005, he graduated from the University of Louisville's Command Officer Development School. Other educational highlights include a civilian invitation to attend the US Army War College and a specialized agency head gathering in Threat Assessment at the US Secret Service Headquarters.

John spent 15 years with the Miami Dade Schools Police Department working his way up through the ranks from Officer to Major. In 2006, he joined Leon County Schools where he and his staff have built a safety and security department that continues to receive recognition through innovative uses of technology and major campus security enhancements.

John is widely recognized as an expert on school safety issues. In 2004, he was the on-site Incident Commander at Southwood Middle School where a 14-year-old middle school student was senselessly murdered. The case received national attention and many preventative threat assessment procedures have since been implemented nationwide. Following the tragic killing of 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Chief Hunkiar was called upon for his expertise by then Governor Scott as new school safety legislation was being developed.

John and his wife Linda have three children, Lindsey, Jake and Jessica; Lindsey and Jake are also proud alumni of TCC. Chief Hunkiar will be retiring from Leon County Schools in 2022 and looks forward to his next unscripted professional career.