

LeRoy Forsman  
Chief of Police



211 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Nampa, Idaho 83651  
(208) 465-2257

---

## NAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT

# PRESS RELEASE

January 31, 2012

The Nampa Police Department would like to give recognition to Evidence Specialist Tara Koho who recently received her certification as a Certified Latent Print Examiner (CLPE). This is a very difficult certification to achieve and puts her among a small group of people around the world who have achieved this status.

In 2010, Tara Koho was one of 15 candidates selected through a competitive process to participate in a Latent Print Examiner Training Program funded by the National Institute of Justice and sponsored by the National Forensic Science Technology Center in Largo, Florida. This program consisted of over 400 hours of training in Florida along with additional pre and post course work assignments, practical exercises and assessment testing all of which she successfully completed.

The process of becoming a Certified Latent Print Examiner (CLPE) involves rigorous testing through the International Association for Identification (IAI) based out of Florida – currently the only forensic association in the world that provides certifications in specific areas of forensic science. To begin the certification process an examiner must apply to take the test and will not be approved to do so until specific requirements are met. These include 2-4 years of working with fingerprints and latents, completion of approved training classes, a Bachelors degree, and letters of recommendation. The CLPE Certification Board reviews your application and if you fulfill the requirements they will allow you to continue with testing. Without going into great detail, the testing has multiples steps and requires a significant amount of time to complete.

Since the CLPE certification process was implemented in 1977 only 872 Certified Latent Print Examiner certifications have been awarded throughout the world. Less than about 600 are active in today's workforce. Once you become a CLPE you are required to re-certify every 5 years which includes obtaining a minimum of 80 continuing professional development credits from conducting research, publishing articles, providing training, attending conferences, and a variety of other ways.

We at the Nampa Police Department are proud of Tara's hard work toward achieving this certification. We believe that the knowledge and skills gained through this process will help better serve our community through high quality analysis, identification and evidence processing. The experience and proficiency demonstrated by achieving the certification will assist the community by providing faster results in cases involving fingerprints where previously some case work had to be outsourced. The citizens of Nampa can be assured

that the Nampa Police Department's Crime Lab and CLPE are always moving forward in the fast paced field of forensic sciences to provide the best services to the community.

Lt. Eric Skoglund  
Investigative Services  
761-9187

Tara Koho  
Evidence Specialist  
468-5676