

PRESS RELEASE

AMERICAN BOARD OF CRIMINALISTICS (ABC)

February 18, 2009

The criminal justice system relies on trained and qualified personnel to provide valid data in the analysis of evidence. Accordingly, the expertise, skills, and integrity of those forensic scientists that conduct these analyses are critical to the proper functioning of the criminal justice system. The American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) endorses and supports the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) approach to validating the need for certification of forensic scientists in their report, "Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward." Although certified forensic scientists work in federal, state, and local government crime laboratories throughout the United States, many forensic scientists are not certified. ABC will work diligently to increase the numbers of certified criminalists working in our nation's crime laboratories. The ABC will ensure that the certification recommendations in the NAS report are acted upon and that the current certification program is continuously enhanced to provide the criminal justice system with the most qualified personnel possible in ensuring that valid science is practiced in the nation's forensic science laboratories.

For more information contact:

Desiree A. Reid, President ABC