James McMillanis an Investigator with the Office of the Attorney General of Iowa Cold Case Unit, where he investigates homicide, missing person, and unidentified human remains cases. Investigator McMillan retired as an FBI Special Agent in 2024 with over 25 years of federal law enforcement service, where he specialized in crisis negotiation and violent crime, crimes against children, and civil rights investigations.

Learning objectives:

1. Foundational Knowledge: Understand the definition and scope of a cold case, the criteria for prioritizing which cold cases to re-investigate, identify the key differences between cold cases and active investigations, and recognize common reasons why cases go cold.

2. Investigative Techniques: Learn modern investigative strategies for re-opening and managing cold cases and examine case file organization.

3. Forensic Advancements: Explore current forensic technologies that can aid in cold case resolution.

4. Legal & Ethical Considerations: Review the legal implications of re-investigating and prosecuting cold cases, discuss chain-of-custody issues and admissibility of aged evidence, and identify ethical challenges in victim and family communications during reopened investigations.

5. Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Understand the roles of law enforcement, forensic scientists, prosecutors, and other collaborators in cold case investigations.

