

Meet & Greet with Dr. Brian Lovins

Tuesday February 2, 2020 at 3:30pm ET/12:30pm PT

Dr. Brian Lovins Biography:

Dr. Brian Lovins is a Principal for Justice Systems Partner. He earned his PhD in Criminology from the University of Cincinnati. He is currently President-Elect for the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA). Prior to JSP, Dr. Lovins worked for Harris County CSCD as the Assistant Director. He was tasked with developing and implementing agency wide change plans to drive increased successful completion rates. In addition, he was the Associate Director for the University of Cincinnati's Corrections Institute—the School of Criminal Justice's training and research department. He has developed a state-wide juvenile risk assessment (Ohio Youth Assessment System: OYAS) and adult risk assessment (Ohio Risk Assessment System: ORAS), as well as validation of a series of post-adjudication (TRAS) and additional pretrial risk assessments. Dr. Lovins has been invited to present to over 200 agencies and routinely trains agencies in the principles of effective intervention, risk assessment, and the delivery of cognitive-behavioral interventions.

Dr. Lovins has received the 2020 Edward J. Latessa Practitioner Research Award from the American Society of Criminology-Division on Corrections and Sentencing for his continued body of work in helping community corrections move forward. He has also been honored with the Dr. Simon Dinitz Award by the Ohio Community Corrections Association and the David Dillingham Public Service Award from the International Community Corrections Association, as well as being recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus by the University of Cincinnati. His publications include articles on risk assessment, sexual offenders, effective interventions, probation reform, and cognitive-behavioral interventions.

Dr. Brian Lovins Contact Information

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Questions Asked during Meet & Greet

Your experiences with applied research:

1. In this series, we often use the word “space” to denote the differences in the Alt-Ac market. We might say, the University Research Center space, or the Local Agency space, or the Research firm space. When we’ve talked to folks previously, they typically have worked in one or two spaces, but you’ve worked in at least four or five.
 - a. Can you walk us through a bit of your journey from social worker to academic to assistant director of large county agency to principal of a non-profit firm?
 - b. How did you know you wanted to take this trajectory with your career instead of a traditional university trajectory?
 - c. You might be considered a bit of a visionary who surrounds himself with a team of people to help execute your big-out-of-the-box ideas. For students who see themselves as visionaries more than executors, how do you recommend they carve a path for themselves?

- d. How do these spaces compare? What is similar across them? And, what stands out as different?
- e. We've heard a mixed bag of responses about this, but do you think ordering of where you work matters? For example, having worked in one space makes you particularly marketable for another.

Translational Work:

2. We've spent a significant amount of this series talking about action-research and conducting rigorous research that directly speaks to work on the ground. Beyond traditional research, there is also "translational work" that operates in these spaces, can you help us more clearly define "translational work" (or, is no definition actually better/more accurate?)?
 - a. For students still in their programs, what skills make a good "translational researcher?" And, how would you recommend students develop these translational skills?
 - b. Are there specific activities, workshops, or experiences students can seek out to help them develop this?
3. What other ways do you heighten your translational profile? How can students engage with practitioners in other ways besides research?

Hiring:

4. You were the co-director of the research center at University of Cincinnati, the Assistant Director of Harris County Supervision, and now principal at JSP. Suffice to say, you've been around the manager block. When you're thinking about hiring for open positions, what do you typically look for in candidates?
 - a. Does what you're looking for depend on the "space" you're hiring for?
5. When you think about your time as part of hiring committees in different spaces and you had stand out interviews, what did they look like? What were some things people did really well that inspired you?
6. Are there any common pitfalls people fall into when interviewing? Is there anything people should absolutely avoid? Or, really gets your goat?
7. How does an employee know they are in a position that is a good match for them? Any tips on how to have a potentially uncomfortable conversation to gauge your "status" in your position?

Ad Hoc Questions:

8. One thing we've learned about you and many other speakers, is that the journey is not linear. It's a lot of walking into doors, perhaps staying for awhile, and then finding a secret door and walking into the next door of opportunity. What's particularly unique about your non-linear journey is the number of unique projects you do that are not traditional research. How do we give students permission to make it up as they go along? How do we produce scholars who use their PhD in unique, creative and interesting ways?