



## Robert Kopler '86

*Deputy Sheriff (Retired)*  
Allegheny County Sheriff's Office

Robert Kopler '86 is a retired deputy sheriff for the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office. Assigned to the criminal court system, his responsibilities included maintaining custody of incarcerated defendants who appeared before the court, seeking people with active warrants for arrest, and maintaining law and order in the courthouse.

At age 16 Mr. Kopler started a media relations business, and he sold it to his mother in return for tuition. Mr. Kopler graduated from La Roche with a bachelor's degree in administration and management. Afterward he worked for 13 years in sales and marketing, moving through the ranks from a sales representative to director of sales for eastern United States.

Throughout his sales career, Mr. Kopler saw the consumer electronics industry evolve through VCRs, CD players and cell phones, along with other technology. The industry developed at a quick pace, forcing him to evolve while honing his sales and marketing skills.

Mr. Kopler said he considers becoming a deputy sheriff his greatest professional accomplishment.

"I had no experience or knowledge in this profession. I drew upon my college education and life experience in sales, where I deal with all sorts of people with various economic backgrounds," Mr. Kopler said. "My communication skills made me successful."

He received the 2013 Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer Award. The Senate of Pennsylvania also recognized Mr. Kopler for meaningful contributions to the wellbeing of the community. He received two Commendation Ribbons and a Letter of Recognition for his work in law enforcement.

"Some of the friends I made in the administration and management program later became police officers, and I would run into them on the job," Mr. Kopler said. "We would look back on our time at La Roche, never guessing we'd end up in this profession."

An active volunteer, Mr. Kopler serves as senior deacon for Masonic Lodge. He also is in the College of Elders at Memorial Park Church.

Mr. Kopler retired from the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office in February 2019.

