



Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **IMMEDIATE**

DATE: **Tuesday, November 28, 2006**

Jail Prepares Inmates for Outside through Education

WHO: Five Inmates earn GED
WHAT: Graduation Ceremony
WHEN: Wednesday, November 29, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.
WHERE: Newport News City Jail, 2nd Floor

In today's competitive job market, education is key. That might even be more true for those with a criminal record. Men and women being released from the Newport News City Jail face the difficult challenge of finding an employer willing to take a chance on them. But Sheriff Gabe Morgan understands that they are more likely to find an open door with an education.

That is why he has made the jail-based GED program a major priority. So far this year, 21 inmates have earned a General Equivalency Diploma (GED). And more will be testing in December. Compare that to 2005 when only seven inmates earned GEDs. We are on-track to quadruple the success of the educational program. An education will help reduce recidivism, benefiting the public with reduced crime.

The Newport News Sheriff's Office continues with its innovative approach to the GED program. We are permitting those inmates who earn their GEDs to have a Graduation Ceremony here at the jail. Among the invited guests are members of the inmates' families.

On this occasion, there is no Plexiglas separating the graduates from their loved ones. Real hugs and a peck on the cheek are shared along with stories from home. This special opportunity is added incentive to study hard.

The media is invited to witness the celebration and find out how the five graduates view their future with a GED certificate in-hand.

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