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Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

DATE: **April 5, 2011**

Focusing on Education Behind Bars

Under-education is one of the key factors contributing to crime. While behind bars, many inmates at the Newport News Sheriff's Office take the first step toward changing that path. Earning a GED can be the difference between recommitting crime or moving forward as a contributing citizen.

On Wednesday, April 6, seven inmates -- three females and four males -- will celebrate that first step. A GED graduation ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Jail Annex. Each inmate is permitted to invite family -- for what will be their only contact visit while incarcerated in jail. All other visits are via the telephone through Plexiglas. Family support is encouraged by Newport News Sheriff Gabe Morgan, which is why he wants loved ones to be a part of the celebration.

Interviews with inmates will be available.

WHO: Seven inmates earn GED
WHAT: Graduation Ceremony
WHEN: Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.
WHERE: Newport News Sheriff's Office
Jail Annex
228 -- 25th Street; Newport News, VA

This is the first GED graduation ceremony for 2011. The program was revamped in 2006 to become more efficient in graduation rates. Since that time, 164 inmates have earned their GED, including this class -- an average of 31 graduates per year compared to only 7 for all of 2005.

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For more information, contact Lt. Kathleen Carey at 757-926-8747 or 757-813-6139.