

DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE

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WHAT: Douglas County Detention Division Graduates First Class of GED Participants

NARRATIVE: DOUGLAS COUNTY: Douglas County Sheriff David A. Weaver was pleased to announce that five inmates have participated in and passed their GED requirements while incarcerated at the Douglas County Detention Facility. The first graduation ceremony was held to commemorate the participants and many volunteers.

The GED program has been available to inmates for many years, but typically just for them to study and prepare to take the test once they left the facility. Staff and volunteers saw a need to take it a step further and offer the test inside the facility. This would allow inmates who are incarcerated for a longer period of time to take the classes and complete the program. They would not have to wait until they finished their sentences or bonded out.

A local GED proctor was located and not only does he volunteer his time at this facility, but at many similar ones around the state. He was able to come to the facility two times per month to meet with the students. In the mean time, inmates were able to work with volunteers on their lessons and prepare for the tests.

On April 28, 2008, five students went through the first graduation ceremony of this kind for the detention facility. It not only commemorated what the inmates accomplished, but also allowed the volunteers to witness the fruition of their contribution. Sheriff Weaver was on hand to present the students with their certificates and pass on a few words of wisdom. "I am very impressed that you all saw a positive way to spend your time here. This is the first step to a successful way of life outside these walls. Take it serious and be proud of your hard work and what you have accomplished," stated Sheriff Weaver.

The GED program as well as the other programs offered in the detention facility would not be possible if it were not for the many volunteers. Their time and commitment is priceless. If you are interested in learning more about the many programs or would like to volunteer your time in the detention facility, please go to our website www.dcsheriff.net or call Lt. Keith Penry at 303-814-7055.

A picture of the graduation ceremony is attached, but the identities of the inmates have been protected for safety reasons.

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