



Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

DATE: **August 6, 2007**

GED Meets Special Needs

The Newport News Sheriff's Office continues its innovative approach to education by permitting those inmates who earn their GED to have a contact visit with family members. For this special celebration, the Plexiglass of the visiting booth is removed and replaced with real hugs and G-rated kisses.

We have seen fathers hold their infants for the first time. We have seen inmates encourage a father and a sister to earn their own GED. Both men and women are graduating from the Newport News City Jail with a General Equivalency Diploma (GED). But perhaps none have worked harder than one member of this latest class. A 20-year old man has persevered to overcome a learning disability to earn his GED.

"The only way we're going to help these folks keep from returning to jail, is to help give them the tools to succeed on the outside," urged Sheriff Gabe Morgan. "And education is key."

Come celebrate the Newport News Sheriff's Office High School and GED Graduation Wednesday, August 29 at 2 p.m. at the Newport News City Jail.

"They (the inmates) should be congratulated on their achievements. Holding a special presentation for the certificates sends a message to the other men and women behind bars that they can do it, too." said Morgan.

WHO: Four inmates earn GED, including one Special Needs student
WHAT: GED Graduation Ceremony
WHEN: Wednesday, August 29 at 2:00 p.m.
WHERE: Newport News City Jail, 2nd Floor Training Room

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