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Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

DATE: **August 10, 2010**

Inmates Earning GED are Rewarded by the Newport News Sheriff's Office

A graduation ceremony outside the norm because it is held inside a jail

Sheriff Gabe Morgan celebrates with every inmate who earns his/her GED and he opens up the celebration to family. Graduation is a cultural tradition that marks one stage of a person's life to another. The ritual's meaning is no different for those behind bars. Completing a basic education can be the first step toward a second chance at life.

The next GED graduation ceremony will be held Wednesday, August 11 at 2:00 p.m. at the Jail Annex, 228 - 25th Street. Eight men and one woman are the latest to earn the privilege to celebrate. Two are new daddies who, up until now, have only been able to see their babies through a Plexiglas window.

Interviews with inmates will be available.

WHO: Nine inmates earn GED
WHAT: Graduation Ceremony
WHEN: Wednesday, August 11 at 2:00 p.m.
WHERE: Newport News Sheriff's Office
Jail Annex
228 -- 25th Street; Newport News, VA

So far this year, 24 men and women have earned their GED through class offered by the Newport News Sheriff's Office. The program was revamped in 2006 and efficiencies gained. To date, 155 inmates have earned their GED while incarcerated at the Newport News City Jail.

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