



Thomas E. Brown, Sheriff

NEWS RELEASE

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AUDIT RATES DEKALB JAIL'S GED PROGRAM AS 'EXEMPLARY'

DECATUR, Ga. – The DeKalb County Jail's General Equivalency Diploma (GED) program is an exemplary one, according to findings of a Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education Office of Adult Literacy audit that the Sheriff's Office received April 2, 2008.

The Peer Review Committee conducting the comprehensive on-site review of programs in DeKalb, Morgan, Newton and Rodale counties in April 2007 ranked the DeKalb Jail's program at level four, or "Exemplary," on a scale of one to four, with four being considered excellent.

"This rating is reserved for those categories of a high enough quality to serve as a model for other programs in the state," the report says.

The Office of Adult Literacy and the University of Georgia selected the audit committee, which evaluates basic literacy and GED programs to improve service delivery to students.

Through a partnership with DeKalb Technical College that began 15 years ago, the jail offers Adult Basic Education (ABE)/GED classes four days each week and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes two days each week. Approximately 2,800 students have received GEDs at the jail.

"These programs are an integral part of the overall rehabilitative programs of the jail, and eligibility is based upon inmate behavior, conduct, and security requirements," Sheriff Thomas Brown said. "Inmate participation is voluntary unless a judge mandates that the inmate completes the classes."

Brown credits DeKalb Technical College, their instructors who show up to on a regular basis to help implement the program, and the Jail Division's educational programs staff with the success of the program.

According to statistics provided by Georgia Adult Literacy Information Systems for June 30 to July 1, 2007, the DeKalb Jail's GED program is number one in student count, student contact hours and student level movement.

"At all levels of involvement, from the Sheriff and director of adult literacy, to the instructors and supervising officers, this is truly a successful collaboration that we hope will continue for many years to come", said Debby Milledge, lead teacher for Adult Literacy Services at DeKalb Technical College. "This partnership . . . has been amazingly beneficial for all of the participants in the program."

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