



Criminal Justice Institute—University of Arkansas System

# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. Cheryl May at (501) 570-8052

**June 9, 2008, Mountain Home, Arkansas**—Eighteen Arkansas law enforcement officers were honored last week for completing the **Narcotics Officer Certificate Program**, an intensive education program of the Criminal Justice Institute that provides law enforcement officers with the knowledge and skills they need to conduct a basic narcotics investigation.

The ceremony was held Friday, June 6, 2008, at the Big Creek Country Club in Mountain Home. **The Honorable Ron Kincade**, Prosecuting Attorney for the 14th Arkansas Judicial District, served as the Keynote Speaker for the event.

Many of the program participants represented rural agencies in the State. In the past, these agencies have traditionally been able to rely on drug task force programs for assistance in conducting narcotics investigations. Unfortunately, shifts in federal and state funding have affected the services these programs can provide. A continued decrease in drug task force funding will shift even more responsibility to local law enforcement agencies in the abatement of drug-related crimes within their communities. The Criminal Justice Institute's Narcotics Officer Certificate Program was created to assist law enforcement in the State in meeting this challenge.

The program, which is the only one of its kind in the State, was shaped by Arkansas law enforcement professionals who know firsthand the skills needed to be an effective narcotics investigator. **Sgt. Dan Chandler** and **Sgt. J.B. Stephens** of the Little Rock Police Department, **Sheriff Karl Byrd** of the Faulkner County Sheriff's Office, and **Lieutenant Richard Norris** of the Hot Springs Police Department all played a large role in its development and implementation.

The current program consists of five 3-day sessions that are delivered over the course of five months. Following a comprehensive introduction to Arkansas Narcotics Enforcement and State Drug Laws, program content includes: *Drug Identification and Classification, Investigative Techniques, Managing Informants and Cooperative Witnesses, Money Management, Methamphetamine, Search and Seizure, Evidence Collection, Interview and Interrogation, Surveillance and Resources, Intelligence, Report Writing, Criminal Defenses and Courtroom Testimony, and Pharmaceutical Diversion Cases.*

“Unfortunately, illicit drug activities are negatively impacting both metropolitan and rural communities throughout our State,” says Jim Clark, Director of the Criminal Justice Institute. “We commend the law enforcement executives of the agencies represented in this course for their commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the communities they serve and protect.”

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