



NEWS RELEASE



ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For Immediate Release:

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Five inmates pass GED's in February

Five Alachua County Jail inmates passed their GED's in February, bringing the total to eight who have passed their high school equivalency tests in 2010. Fourteen inmates have been tested so far this year.

Forty-three inmates passed their GED tests in 2009 and 2008. In addition to receiving their GED's, only one inmate (of the 43 who passed in 2009) had re-offended and returned to the jail within six months of being released, further highlighting the value of an education in aiding offenders with successful re-entry to society after their incarceration.

Twenty-two inmates passed their General Educational Development (GED) tests in 2007. In 2006, fifteen inmates obtained GED's while at the jail. The average grade level for those tested in 2009 was the fourth grade. Their average length of their stay at the jail was 40-60 days.

All general population inmates are eligible to improve their educational skills through a partnership with the Alachua County School Board. After completing the Test of Adult Basic Education, GED preparation is provided for those inmates without a high school diploma who test at or above the ninth grade level. Those who test below the ninth grade level in one or more of three subject areas (reading, writing and math) are given intensive pre-GED preparation to get them to the level to take GED classes.

For more information on this news release, contact Eugene Morris, Public Information Officer at the jail at 352-491-4525. For more information on other programs at the Alachua County Jail, go to www.alachuasheriff.org/jail.

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