

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **INMATE LITERACY PROGRAM AT MONROE DETENTION CENTER CELEBRATES 100<sup>TH</sup> GED GRADUATE**

Yolo County Sheriff-Coroner E.G. Prieto is proud to announce the 100<sup>th</sup> inmate to receive a General Education Diploma (GED) while in custody at the Yolo County jails.

Fabian Mariscal received his GED on January 27, 2010.

For the past 16 years, the Yolo County Sheriff's Department, in partnership with and the Woodland Public Library Literacy Service has been operating the Inmate Literacy program within the Monroe and Leinberger Detention Facilities. Under the guidance of Inmate Literacy Coordinator Charlotte Beal, inmates are provided with one-on-one tutoring and independent study time on their own with GED preparation materials provided by the Literacy Service. The GED is an equivalent of a high school diploma, and the work in five subject areas covers what would have been covered in general studies at high school, including language arts, social studies, science and math. "The amount of work these students put in is unbelievable," notes Literacy Coordinator Sue Bigelow. "It is truly a sign of the dedication and hard work that happens both with the inmate and with Charlotte, and the Literacy Service couldn't be prouder of their work", said Bigelow.

Inmates at Monroe and Leinberger Detention Facilities choose to be part of this program primarily because of its success rate. Inmates leaving the facility have a much higher chance of obtaining employment, which is often the first step to putting their lives back together and for many that means independent housing, getting their kids back and beginning to lead a productive life. There is often times more being taught than the basic high school classes. "In many ways, we are giving them hope, and determination, and a desire to succeed in the outside world," notes Inmate Coordinator Charlotte Beal".

The program costs about \$30,000 a year to operate, none of which is from taxpayer dollars. The program, as with many of the inmate programs, are funded through the Inmate Welfare Fund, which derives it's money from commissions from inmate commissary and telephone services.