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FKCC to Graduate First Upper Keys-Based Basic Law Enforcement Academy

KEY WEST, FL, February 11, 2010—Florida Keys Community College’s Institute of Criminal Justice will celebrate the completion of its first Basic Law Enforcement academy administered in the Upper Keys. This also marks the 38th BLE academy and the 107th total criminal justice academy matriculated at FKCC. A graduation ceremony for the nine students who successfully completed the 770-hour training program will be held on Wednesday, February 17 at 6:00p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Coral Shores High School, which houses the college’s Upper Keys Center.

FKCC President Dr. Larry Tyree will open the program with welcoming and congratulatory remarks to graduates and their families. The commencement address will be given by the honorable Monroe County Sheriff Bob Peryam, who, along with 74 percent of current Monroe County Sheriff Officers, is an alumnus of FKCC’s Criminal Justice Institute.

FKCC Director of Criminal Justice, Marc Halvorson, will recognize the best and the brightest of the class with awards for superior academic performance, leadership, and “Top Gun” shooting skills. Class Captain Kevin Schwartz will present the traditional class plaque to FKCC on behalf of his fellow graduates. Dr. Tyree, along with FKCC Upper Keys Coordinators Tom Brazil and Lisbeth Ruano, will present each graduate with a certificate of completion. Upon passing the state certification exam, these graduates will become Florida Law Enforcement Officers.

FKCC’s Basic Law Enforcement program satisfies the training requirements of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission. Program coursework surveys the criminal justice system and provides training in basic law and legal procedures, communications, vehicle operations, investigations, defensive tactics, first aid, traffic stops, firearms, patrol techniques and crowd control. FKCC designed this academy to train part-time in the late evenings for one year to allow students to maintain full-time employment.

FKCC’s Institute of Criminal Justice will offer two more part-time, night-time Basic Law Enforcement academies this year, one beginning in April on the Key West Campus and one in August in the Upper Keys Center. For more information about FKCC’s Institute of Criminal Justice, visit www.fkcc.edu/academics/criminal-justice.da.

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