

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



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## **FKCC Graduates 39th Basic Law Enforcement Academy**



Key West Police Chief Donie Lee and FKCC Criminal Justice Director Marc Halvorson look on as FKCC President Dr. Larry Tyree congratulates Marilu Latala for completing the College's 39<sup>th</sup> Basic Law Enforcement Academy.

KEY WEST, FL, March 8, 2010—Florida Keys Community College's Institute of Criminal Justice graduated six officers from its 39<sup>th</sup> Basic Law Enforcement Academy on Monday evening in the lobby of the Tennessee Williams Theatre. The event marked the successful completion of a 42-week, 770-hour training program that has prepared the graduates to become Florida Law Enforcement Officers, upon passing the state certification exam.

The ceremony was well-attended by representatives from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and Key West Police Department, including KWPD Chief Donie Lee and MCSO Chief Tommy Taylor. FKCC President Dr. Larry Tyree opened the program with welcoming and congratulatory remarks to graduates and their families. Graduate Kelvin Cruz presented the traditional class plaque to FKCC on behalf of his fellow graduates. The class selected KWPD Inspector Randall Smith, who is also an instructor, to give the commencement address.

The best and the brightest of the class were recognized by FKCC Director of Criminal Justice Marc Halvorson with awards for superior academic performance and "Top Gun" shooting skills. Graduate Tiffany Beeman swept both honors with a 97.5% grade point average and perfect weapon shooting score. FKCC Criminal Justice Coordinator Steven Torrence bestowed the "PIG" award for exceptional pride, integrity, and guts, to the entire class, as all equally demonstrated those qualities. Dr. Tyree, along with Torrence presented each graduate with a certificate of completion.

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 and weekends for nearly 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](http://www.fkcc.edu/academics/criminal-justice.da).

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