



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Friday, March 1, 2019

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FCSO Inmates Continue to STRIDE Towards Success



Left: Brian Willard from Flagler County Schools presents Josiah Merriweather with his GED. Right: Beryl Rogers from the Flagler Technical Institute presents Elisha Payne-Clark with a Certificate of Accomplishment.

On Tuesday afternoon February 26, 2019 inmate Josiah Merriweather was presented with his General Education Diploma (GED) inside the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility. Merriweather began working towards his GED during his first incarceration and completed his course work upon release via STRIDE's 'Road to Success' program sponsored by Career Source.

Additionally, Elisha Payne-Clark was presented with a Certificate of Accomplishment from the Flagler Technical Institute for improving his Reading and Comprehension by two grade levels. Inmate Services Director Becky Quintieri organized the presentation with hopes of inspiring other inmates currently enrolled in various stages of the STRIDE GED program to continue their education and complete the GED course upon their release.

"Mr. Merriweather and Mr. Payne-Clark are great examples of what can be achieved if you stick with the STRIDE program," Sheriff Staly said. "There is always an opportunity to turn a 'set-back' into a 'step-up' for success. When I was elected Sheriff one of my goals was to stop the revolving door of the criminal justice system and offer inmates the opportunity to become productive members of our community. Results like this show that while we might have a long road ahead, we will get there together."

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Currently there are 19 inmates enrolled in the STRIDE's GED program. All of the inmates who successfully complete the program will be awarded a scholarship upon release to finish their final semester at the Flagler Technical Institute and earn their GED.

The STRIDE program was implemented by Sheriff Staly and stands for Skills, Transitional Support, Respect, Integrity, Direction, and Employment, and includes a multitude of programs for inmates booked or sentenced to the county jail. STRIDE works with community partners to provide inmates with GED courses, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, Narcotics Anonymous meetings, Anger Management, Faith-based Recovery Programs, Parenting Classes, and much more.

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