



COUNTY OF YOLO
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 26, 2012 **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney
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23 Citizens Graduate From District Attorney's First Citizens Academy

(Woodland, CA) – June 26, 2012 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that 23 Yolo County citizens graduated from the inaugural session of the Yolo County Law Enforcement Citizens Academy. The graduation ceremony was held last Thursday. The Academy was sponsored by the District Attorney's Office in partnership with the Yolo County Sheriff's Office, the Probation Department and police departments from Davis, West Sacramento, Winters and Woodland.

The Citizens Academy is an 8 week course designed to involve diverse communities in participating in mutual learning about the criminal justice system, diversity, and racial issues within the framework of our system of justice. The goal is to achieve improved relationships and communication between diverse communities and the criminal justice system.

Weekly sessions included: The Role of the District Attorney; The Role of Law Enforcement, including Internal Affairs and Review Boards; Special Challenges of Prosecution, including Three Strikes and Domestic Violence; Race as a Factor in the Criminal Justice System; the FBI and US Attorney's Office; and Gangs.

Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig stated, "Based on the feedback received from class participants, the first Academy was a huge success." Reisig continued, "I think participants learned about the challenges of law enforcement in our diverse communities throughout Yolo County and what its public servants here accomplish."

One student stated, "This academy has changed my perspective on law enforcement and with the knowledge I have gained here I will definitely share it with others in my community."

Another offered, "It was great to put the faces with the departments and see what the different community challenges are."

The Academy will be offered again in the spring of 2013. For more information, log on to <http://www.yoloda.org>.

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