



COUNTY OF YOLO

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

301 SECOND STREET - WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA 95695 - 530.666.8180 - FAX 530.666.8185

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** June 24, 2013      **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney

**Phone:** Jonathan.raven@yolocounty.org

### **29 Citizens Graduate From District Attorney's Citizens Academy**

(Woodland, CA) – June 24, 2013 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that 29 Yolo County citizens graduated from the second annual session of the Yolo County Law Enforcement Citizens Academy. The graduation ceremony was held on Thursday, June 13, 2013, at the Woodland Police Department. The District Attorney's Office sponsored the Academy in partnership with the Yolo County Sheriff's Department, the Probation Department, Police Departments from Davis, UCD, West Sacramento, Winters and Woodland, and the California Highway Patrol.

The Citizens Academy is an eight 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; The Role of Other Partners in the Criminal Justice System, including the Judiciary, the Grand Jury and the Defense Attorney; Special Challenges of Prosecution, including Three Strikes, Domestic Violence and realignment; Race as a Factor in the Criminal Justice System; the Multi Cultural Community Council; and Community Focus and Gangs.

Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig stated, "I think participants learned about the challenges faced by law enforcement in our diverse communities throughout Yolo County and what our public servants here accomplish." Reisig continued, "But they also found that law enforcement relies on its citizens in order to keep their neighborhoods and cities safe."

Davis citizen Carlos Matos stated "It was a wonderful experience. It covered all facets of the criminal justice system in Yolo County and it gave an opportunity for participants to meet and talk to all players involved in the system including police chiefs, the sheriff, the judiciary, the defense attorney and the DA."

Woodland citizen Jim Zuniga stated, "The victims panel was an awesome presentation. It showed real life people, with real life experiences, that left me thinking a lot about the victims of crime."

Woodland business owner, Nancy Edwards offered, "I am so much more aware of the what is going on in my neighborhood and community." Edwards continued, "Further, I had no idea of all the volunteer programs available in law enforcement! I will be a volunteer! Thank you, you all did a great job!"

The Academy will be offered again in the spring of 2014. For more information, log on to <http://www.yoloda.org>.

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