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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUTNAM COUNTY, TN - Putnam County Sheriff's Office Rising Star Scholarship Offered at Nashville State Community College

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office, Upper Cumberland Education Foundation and Nashville State Community College have partnered to create the first-ever *"Putnam County Sheriff's Office Rising Star Scholarship"*. Qualified applicants will be eligible to receive a \$500 scholarship to Nashville State Community College. Two scholarships per year will be offered: one funded by Nashville State Community College and one funded by Sheriff Eddie Farris.

"Law enforcement is a complex and challenging profession," said Sheriff Eddie Farris. "In today's work environment, we must learn and apply hundreds of laws and manage the spiraling sophistication of crime scenarios. Education is the key to advancing our profession and protecting those we are sworn to protect. That is why I am so pleased to announce the founding of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office Rising Star Scholarship at Nashville State Community College. Through this incredible opportunity, I hope to encourage all of our rising stars to pursue a higher education."

A person's commitment to the rigorous demands of a college education indicates that person's dedication to the pursuit of excellence. College imparts not just extensive academic knowledge but real-life experience to help officers deal with the community. College exposes students to people with different backgrounds, languages, ideas, beliefs, attitudes and goals. Patrol experience has no substitute, but police departments are increasingly realizing that skills learned in the classroom qualify as essential for today's officers.

"It is an honor to provide the men and women of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office with this opportunity," said Becky Hull, Campus Director for Nashville State Community College. "It takes a special person to shoulder the responsibility of protecting others. By working with the Foundation to establish this scholarship, Sheriff Farris is making the statement that he believes in his deputies. He has a vision to make the department the best in the state of Tennessee. He will need strong, educated leaders working alongside him to do so."

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., notes that higher education is not an "absolute answer," but stated in its 1994 Standards Manual that "Officers who have received a broad general education have a better opportunity to gain a more thorough understanding of society, to communicate more effectively with citizens, and to engage in the exploration of new ideas and concepts.

"Earning the Public Trust Every Day!"

Numerous studies conducted since the 1970s have suggested that a college education enhances law enforcement. Benefits of higher education in policing include:

- Better behavioral and performance characteristics
- Fewer on-the-job injuries and assaults
- Fewer disciplinary actions from accidents and force allegations
- Less use of sick time
- Greater acceptance of minorities
- Decrease in dogmatism, authoritarianism, rigidity and conservatism
- Fewer citizen complaints
- Promotion of higher aspirations
- Enhancement of minority recruitment.

Education will provide our deputies with a broader understanding of society and an improved ability to communicate, which translates into better problem-solving skills and a higher level of service to citizens.

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