

Eighteen Graduate From Basic Law Enforcement Program At CVCC



HICKORY, NC – Fourteen men and four women were honored as they graduated from Catawba Valley Community College’s basic law enforcement training (BLET) program recently. The ceremony was held at Maiden High School and for the first time began with a processional featuring the Honor Guard of the Catawba County Sheriff’s Department. Lt Michael Sullivan of the Newton Police Department served as guest speaker.

Graduate Justin Huffman of Granite Falls was presented the Arthur H. Dellinger Leadership Award by the Catawba County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #26. The award is given in memory of Captain Arthur H. “Ott” Dellinger who retired from the Newton Police Department and died in 1995. Huffman was chosen to receive the award by his fellow students for his willingness to always put others before himself.

Huffman was also presented a new award added this year by CVCC Law Enforcement Training Director Ken Phillips. The Tim Duncan Law Enforcement Memorial Award is in memory of the former McDowell County Sheriff’s Deputy and director of the Mayland Community College BLET program. Duncan tragically died in an accident in the fall of 2008.

“Tim personified the best of a law enforcement officer in his 20 years of service to the force. He always saw the best in all people he dealt with,” says Phillips. “He went on to lead and completely overhaul the law enforcement training program at Mayland Community College, and was recognized state wide for his achievements there. He was an inspiration to me as I took the position at CVCC. During his training, graduate Justin Huffman presented himself as having the same qualities, dignity and respect for his fellow students that Tim had, and I felt Justin should be the first recipient of this award.”

Other awards presented to graduates at the ceremony included Kyle Lawrence of Hickory who received the Defensive Driving Award and the Best Firearms Range Score.

Mark Pearson was presented the Best Police Officer Physical Agility Test (POPAT) Award.

The graduates honored guest speaker Lt. Sullivan with their chosen award for best instructor.

The CVCC Summer 2009 BLET graduates are Chad Pittman of Bethlehem, Zack Poythress of Hudson, Claudia Duarte of Newton, Naomi Hamby of Hudson, Tasha McLean of Granite Falls, Brandi Miller of Claremont, Nicholas Rhyann Causby of Lincolnton, Justin Scott Huffman of Granite Falls, Mark Pearson of Maiden, Kyle Lawrence of Hickory, David Richard of Lincolnton, Floyd Blanchard, IV of Conover, Ken Simmons of Catawba, Allen Brannon of Conover, Shawn Goodnight of Catawba, Michael LeFever of Newton, Joseph Painter of Maiden and Alan Russell of Taylorsville.

am is a six and one-half month, 624-hour, intensive course of study administered by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. Classes are held evenings, Monday through Thursday, and all day on Saturday.

Upon successful completion, students must pass the Basic Law Enforcement Certification examination. Individuals are then eligible for employment as a police officer or deputy sheriff. Over 99 percent of students in CVCC's BLET program have passed the examination.

For more information or to apply for admission to CVCC's BLET program, contact Director Ken Phillips at (828) 327-7000 ext. 4448.