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Press Release

Re: 2015 Wisconsin Command College Graduation – Captain David Gardner

On June 5, 2015, Captain David Gardner, a 20 year veteran of the Sheriff's Office, completed a six week management program along with 29 other graduates from other Sheriff's Offices and Police Departments in Wisconsin. "We are happy to have Captain Gardner back to work with the valued training and experience from the Command College," says Sheriff Joe Fath.

On June 1, a new event called the Central Wisconsin Hero Games honored wounded veterans at the VA Medical Center in Tomah. They competed in Olympic-style activities, including archery and a wheelchair-accessible obstacle course.

The Games were conceived by the graduating class of the 2015 Wisconsin Law Enforcement Command College, a partnership between the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Wisconsin Department of Justice. The Command College trains representatives from law enforcement agencies around the state, preparing them for leadership roles. It grew out of UW's highly successful Certified Public Manager Program, which has trained more than 600 people since 1990.

The Central Wisconsin Hero Games allow the 30 members of the Command College's graduating class to apply managerial skills in a real-world setting. They worked closely with Veterans Administration staff to design competitive activities for the wounded warriors. This class project is part of a nine-month program that involved 30 days of intensive classroom instruction, along with individual projects that benefited the participants' agencies.

"The Hero Games are an example of the commitment to service and community embodied in each of these law enforcement leaders," says Command Coordinator Bradley Wentlandt, chief of the Greenfield Police Department. The project exemplifies the Command College core values: leadership, scholarship, and fellowship.

UW-Madison's nationally accredited Certified Public Manager Program prepares managers in federal, state, and local government and in tribal and nonprofit organizations for the unique demands of the public management profession.

Members of the current graduating class represent 29 police departments, sheriff's offices, and state agencies around Wisconsin. They are the second group to complete the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Command College, launched in 2013 by UW-Madison's Division of Continuing Studies.

"The Command College has provided these law enforcement professionals with skills and knowledge to better serve their communities," says Dreifuerst. "UW-Madison is pleased to partner with the Wisconsin Department of Justice to further the Wisconsin Idea, improving citizens' lives beyond the classroom."

The 30 graduates of this year's Command College will join the ranks of more than 25,000 certified public managers nationwide. Members of the graduating class are:

Lt. Todd Baeten, Wausau Police Department
Lt. Christopher Beldin, West Allis Police Department
Lt. Shane Collins, Holmen Police Department
Sgt. Karen Dingman, Big Bend Police Department
Sgt. Andrea Droessler, Platteville Police Department
Sgt. Aaron Ellis, Janesville Police Department
Sgt. Booker Ferguson, Sparta Police Department
Sgt. Todd Fristed, Jackson Police Department
Lt. David Gardner, Vilas County Sheriff's Office
Sgt. Eugene Heckel, Kenosha Police Department
Sgt. Chad Hougaard, Sturgeon Bay Police Department
Sgt. Geoffrey Hutchinson, Waunakee Police Department
Sgt. Chris Jaekl, New Berlin Police Department
Lt. Craig Jansen, Manitowoc Police Department
Director Matthew Joy, Wisconsin Department of Justice
Jail Administrator Carol Kopp, Oconto County Sheriff's Office
Lt. David Livingston, Altoona Police Department
Sgt. Robert Mueller, Caledonia Police Department
Lt. Cory Nelson, Madison Police Department
Lt. Lisa Panas, Waukesha County Sheriff's Office
Sgt. Chris Riedel, DeForest Police Department
Sgt. Joseph Riesselmann, Jr., Kenosha Police Department
Chief Steven Roux, Rice Lake Police Department
Capt. Kurt Schoeni, Oshkosh Police Department
Sgt. Investigator Daniel Streit, Mukwonago Police Department
Chief Timothy Strohmusch, Clear Lake Police Department
Lt. Jason Sykora, St. Croix County Sheriff's Office
Chief Jody Ward, Wisconsin Dells Police Department
Sgt. Patrick Zeps, Marshfield Police Department
Sgt. Scott Zienkiewicz, Greenfield Police Department

- **Dean Robbins**