



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Sheriff's Regional Training Division Hosts Public Safety Leadership Institute

MODESTO, CA-The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, in partnership with San Joaquin Delta College and The Simon Family Criminal Justice Foundation, is proud to announce the opening of the Public Safety Leadership Institute. The Leadership Institute is designed to develop leadership skills in talented youth interested in public safety or criminal justice careers.

Facilitated by public safety professionals, students will be immersed in studying critical public safety issues facing our community. Students will have the opportunity to interview professionals from a broad range of criminal justice components, conduct research from a wide range of sources, and will compete for scholarships after developing their own community service project in support of their findings.

The Public Safety Leadership Institute will commence its' first class offering in January, 2009 and will be hosted at the Sheriff's Regional Training Division. "We have some very talented young adults in our community who would be a perfect fit for this type of program," said Sheriff Adam Christianson. "It is never too early to begin developing our community's leaders of tomorrow, and we feel this is an outstanding program designed to get them there".

"The Public Safety Leadership Institute will eventually host a number of programs we will offer our future leaders," said Lt. Jim Gordon, Director of the Training Division. "This program is the first of its' kind and represents the hard work and dedication of our public safety partners who wish to see nothing but the best in our future public safety professionals."

Founded by longtime Stanislaus County Supervisor Ray Simon, The Simon Family Foundation was created in hopes of providing financial assistance to criminal justice students. "The Simon Family Criminal Justice Foundation is happy to participate in the Public Safety Leadership Institute, in partnership with the Stanislaus County Sheriffs Department and San Joaquin Delta College" said Jeff Simon, co-founder of the Foundation. "The program will promote careers in the criminal justice field and allow opportunities for our local youth in an excellent career field."

Stanislaus County partners with San Joaquin Delta College in providing public safety training to future law enforcement officers. "San Joaquin Delta College is pleased to be an educational partner with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Regional Training Division in creating the Public Safety Leadership Institute and identifying outstanding leaders capable of dealing with critical issues facing the law enforcement profession" said Jared Zwickey, Director of Public Safety Programs.

For more information about the Public Safety Leadership Institute and future programs, contact Teresa Pedro at (209) 525-4701 for information, or visit the training center website at www.sheriffstraining.org .

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