

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

1250 Eglin Parkway • Shalimar, Florida 32579-1234
Phone: (850) 651-7410 • Email: sheriff@sheriff-okaloosa.org

June 9, 2014

OCSO NAMED FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS “AGENCY OF THE YEAR”



Sheriff Larry Ashley today announced that the Okaloosa County School Resource Officer Unit has earned top honors as **“Agency of the Year”** from FASRO, The Florida Association of SROs.

“Our mission is to protect and serve and I can think of no more critical public safety goals than protecting our most precious resource and working to help them become good citizens,” said Sheriff Ashley. “Our Unit excels on every front - from safety and security to mentoring and leadership development. Our emphasis on training, professional development, and organizational efficiency is second to none and I am incredibly proud of this statewide recognition of our program as a role model for all of Florida. I also want to credit the support we get from parents, teachers, and school district administrators. In addition, Sgt. Gary Venuti, Florida School Resource Officer of the Year in 2012, helped set the high standards for the success of our SRO Unit”.

(continued on page two)



The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

“The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate”

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

1250 Eglin Parkway • Shalimar, Florida 32579-1234
Phone: (850) 651-7410 • Email: sheriff@sheriff-okaloosa.org

Page 2

“This year we had a very difficult choice as many exemplary agencies submitted their application for Agency of the year but it was obvious that the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office had made a strong statement and commitment to keep their Kids safe. The commitment from Sheriff Ashley and the Okaloosa County School District was admirable as it placed the need of the schools to be safe in order to provide the highest learning environment. The higher level of safety included having SRO’s with specialized skills in place within the Youth Services to train their deputies. Also the amount of programs and quality of the programs available for children in Okaloosa County is truly exceptional as well as the commitment from the administration. These commitments and actions have raised the level of their School Resource Program which should be a model for all agencies to strive to achieve. It was our honor to select the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office as the 2014 agency of the Year as they are truly dedicated to school policing,” said FASRO President Jack Garman.

The award will be officially presented to the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office at the FASRO conference next month.

A video outlining the comprehensive nature of the OCSO SRO Unit can be viewed on the agency’s YouTube page at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcB35uKJ4Ps>

A complimentary booklet can be viewed on the agency’s webpage at sheriff-okaloosa.org and has also been posted to the OCSO Facebook page.

<http://www.sheriff-okaloosa.org/wp-content/pdfs/newsreleases/2014/May%2015%20-%20OCSO%20Youth%20Services%20SRO%20Unit%20Overview.pdf>

###



The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

“The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate”