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HPD's Cpl. Slater graduates from Criminal Justice Command College

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The Harrisonburg Police Department's commitment to training and new education opportunities was rewarded recently, as Cpl. Megan Slater became the youngest person to ever graduate from the National Criminal Justice Command College.

The 10-week program, a partnership between the University of Virginia and the Virginia State Police, focuses on leadership and collaboration in providing an integrated, cutting-edge approach to criminal justice education. Slater graduated from the mid- to upper-level management school in late September, becoming the youngest participant in the program's 14-year history.

The opportunity allowed Slater to collaborate and learn from 22 other law enforcement leaders from around the state, and to bring that experience back to Harrisonburg to share with her HPD team.

"The National Criminal Justice Command College provided me with a wealth of knowledge that I hope to be able to incorporate into my leadership in the police department and also in my personal life," Slater said. "Networking with the individuals from other agencies across the state will give me the opportunity to be able to reach out for outside opinions on possible ideas or issues we may be dealing with."

The program was key for Slater, coming at a point in her career where it can help shape her leadership abilities for many years to come. And Slater was able to give back to others at the Command College, providing the perspective of someone who is part of the newest generation of law enforcement.

"A big portion of the Command College was about self-awareness," Slater added. "It gave me an opportunity to reflect on who I am as an individual, my leadership style, and my core values and beliefs."



(Above) HPD Chief Eric English with Cpl. Megan Slater after she graduated from the National Criminal Justice Command College.

The course was broken into five master’s level classes: Organizational and Personal Development; Leadership, Management, and Communication; Leadership and Criminal Justice; Negotiation and Collaboration; and Individual and Organizational Effectiveness. Discussions ranged from a number of topics, include leadership resilience, high-performing teams, stress and trauma, and more.

“Having a well-trained and experienced leadership team is important for HPD,” Chief Eric English said. “And the willingness of personnel to take part in furthering their education goes a long way toward helping everyone in the department.”

More information about HPD is available at the department’s website, www.harrisonburgva.gov/police, and Facebook page, www.facebook.com/HarrisonburgPoliceDepartment.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 54,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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