



NEWS

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For Immediate Release: May 26, 2010

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Mesa State hires former GJPD chief

Grand Junction – Former Grand Junction Police Chief Bill Gardner has been hired by Mesa State College as an instructor for its Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) program at Western Colorado Community College. Gardner will begin work on August 15.

“My career passion has been to provide public safety employees with the inspiring mission of guardianship - developing people individually and collectively focused on achieving that mission while promoting the dignity, quality of life, and safety of our citizens,” Gardner said.

“Gratefully, my new role as an academy instructor allows me to continue such work.”

Gardner retired from the Grand Junction Police Department as police chief in September 2009. He started as interim chief in December 2005 and was named chief in May 2006. He served the Mesa County Sheriff’s Office first as Operations Division Commander and later as Undersheriff. He was Sheriff in La Plata County for seven years. He has also been an instructor for the Colorado Association of Police Chiefs and the County Sheriffs of Colorado. He has served as an adjunct instructor for Mesa State and the University of Colorado.

“We are very pleased to have someone with Bill’s expertise and experience joining our faculty at the Peace Officers Academy,” said Mesa State President Tim Foster. “He brings with him a wealth of real-world knowledge that should greatly benefit our students.”

The POST program was developed in response to local law enforcement agencies’ requests for greater access to training for law enforcement personnel. Mesa State, WCCC, Mesa County and the City of Grand Junction joined forces to make the training available locally.

The POST academy operates under the advisement and auspices of the Grand Junction Police Department and the Mesa County Sheriff’s Office. It is a 16-week intensive program that provides students the opportunity to gain the skills necessary to be an entry level peace officer in the State of Colorado.

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