



Pictured L to R: Deputy Emmitt Bivins, Bibb Co. SO; DJJ Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper; Deadra Roberts, AOC II, Office of Volunteer, Victim, & Chaplaincy Services; Deputy Richard Riley, Twiggs Co. SO



Bibb County Sheriff David J. Davis (L), Twiggs County Sheriff Darren Mitchum (R)

MACON RYDC CHAMPS GRADUATES

Graduations come in all shapes and sizes, but there's one thing that remains the same: the reason behind it. No matter whom the recipient is or where the journey began, graduation is a reflection of a person's hard work and dedication to a specific goal. That in itself is worthy of recognition.

On December 1st the Macon Regional Youth Detention Center (Macon RYDC) held their first ever CHAMPS graduation. CHAMPS, the acronym for Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety, is an educational program designed for Georgia's youth. It helps to provide guidelines and skill sets for youth preparing for a safe, healthy, drug free, successful life. Founded in 2003 by the Georgia Sheriffs' Association to help address the modern dangers that youth face today, the CHAMPS lesson plans are taught by certified deputy sheriffs in approximately eighty counties throughout Georgia.

For the first time ever the program was revamped and specifically designed for the Department of Juvenile Justice, particularly for the Macon RYDC residents by the Twiggs County Sheriff's Office. They joined forces with the Bibb County Sheriff's Office Outreach Program to teach the curriculum and was deemed a success. During the graduation ceremony, Bibb County Sheriff David Davis, Twiggs County Sheriff Darren Mitchum, and DJJ Deputy Commissioner Sarah Draper shared their thoughts about the program and gave praise to the ten youth graduates.

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