In an effort to make G.R.E.A.T. more student-focused, the National Policy Board (NPB) recently approved a new slogan for the G.R.E.A.T. Program—"Choose to Be G.R.E.A.T." One of the goals of the G.R.E.A.T. curricula is for students to consistently choose positive decisions for their lives.

You will soon see “Choose to Be G.R.E.A.T.” on your student handbooks, merchandise, and the G.R.E.A.T. Web site, as well as in other G.R.E.A.T.-focused areas. Please ensure that any materials that display the retired slogan “No Violence Is G.R.E.A.T.” are replaced with items that bear the new slogan.

Where Has All The Money Gone?

Over the last five years, there has been a steady decline of funds appropriated for the implementation and sustainment of G.R.E.A.T. projects through federal G.R.E.A.T. grants. Funding levels declined from $25 million in the FY2004 and FY2005 budgets to $18.8 million in FY2008. The Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 cuts the G.R.E.A.T. funds even further to only $10 million for the entire program—including G.R.E.A.T. Officer Trainings (GOTs), student handbooks, and the funds to operate the Regional Training Centers (RTCs). With less money in the congressional appropriation for G.R.E.A.T., there is less money with which to make local grant awards.

Those of us intimately involved with the G.R.E.A.T. Program know—without a doubt—that G.R.E.A.T. really does work. The G.R.E.A.T. Program is very much like our work in law enforcement—it is not about saving the entire community each day but rather saving the community, one life at a time. The G.R.E.A.T. Program does not keep every youth from joining a gang, nor does it keep every student who earns his/her G.R.E.A.T. graduation certificate from engaging in negative behaviors, such as bullying. What we are certain of is that, at the very least, the G.R.E.A.T. Program provides students with a foundation of life skills to help them make their own decisions to avoid gang involvement, violence, and other negative behaviors.

With the announcement of FY2009 G.R.E.A.T. awards several months away, BJA would like to encourage all of our G.R.E.A.T. local program partners to begin to think seriously about sustaining their G.R.E.A.T. Programs in a time of diminishing federal program funds. At the present time, BJA intends to continue to offer GOTs and the student handbooks and graduation certificates at no cost to any certified G.R.E.A.T. instructor. Below, we offer some ideas for G.R.E.A.T. project sustainment and ways to generate funds for supplies, summer programs, etc.

continued on Page 2
**Steps You Can Take to Create Partnerships**

1. **Engage parents, teachers, and college or high school service groups to serve as chaperones on field trips or during the summer component activities.**

2. **Cut back on G.R.E.A.T.-branded gift items for teachers, school administrators, volunteers, and sponsoring agency staff. A handwritten thank-you note from either the G.R.E.A.T. instructor or several of the G.R.E.A.T. students will be appreciated just as much, if not more, as another coffee mug or T-shirt.**

3. **Invite local vendors to become a G.R.E.A.T.-licensed vendor, and purchase your G.R.E.A.T. supplies from your own community, whenever possible.**

4. **Partner with a local community park or recreation facility for summer or after-school programming, promoting the benefit to the youth as the need for no-cost or reduced-cost use of the facility.**

5. **As field trips to amusement parks, sporting events, or museums are both fun and educational for the youth, look for ways to obtain reduced cost or free admission for the youth.**

6. **Look for social clubs, fraternal groups, or sports enthusiasts who might be able to offer a fun event for youth at no cost to the Program. For example: a local fishing or golf group might be willing to offer a fishing derby event or teach youth beginning golf skills, local grocery stores often offer free classes on nutrition and simple meal preparation, a local chess club could teach youth the basics of the game of chess, or a local college sports team might partner to form a youth team.**

**Creative Fund-Raising Ideas**

1. **Partner with a local business for a special G.R.E.A.T. event day. For example, the West Covina Police Department partnered with Cold Stone Creamery in their community for a G.R.E.A.T. Cone Day, and a portion of the profits from every cone purchased was contributed to offset the cost of the G.R.E.A.T. Summer Component.**

2. **Have G.R.E.A.T. students raise funds through an organized fund-raising activity, such as selling G.R.E.A.T. license plates or bumper stickers to parents, relatives, and neighbors.**

3. **Survey the Internet for foundations and corporations that provide support for youth education or youth prevention programs, and find out how your G.R.E.A.T. Program can qualify for their support.**

**Rules for How to Get What you Need for G.R.E.A.T.**

1. **Ask not for yourself, but ask on behalf of the youth in your community.**

2. **Ask what a partner can contribute, instead of telling them what you want them to contribute.**

3. **Give those that contribute recognition for their efforts, regardless of the size of the contribution.**

4. **Invite partners that contribute to attend a G.R.E.A.T. event, and have the youth recognize the partners and their contribution.**

5. **Be prepared to offer each person or business that makes a contribution a receipt (for tax purposes) for the fair market value of the products or services they contributed.**

**Always remember to focus your discussions on how G.R.E.A.T. will benefit the youth and the community!!**

**G.R.E.A.T. Grant Applications**

The FY2009 grant application period closed on February 22, 2009, and applications are currently under review. Once the review and approval process are completed, awards will be posted on the G.R.E.A.T. Web site at www.great-online.org.
Student Handbooks Have New Look!

In addition to a new slogan, G.R.E.A.T. student handbooks now have a new look! Both the middle school and elementary school handbooks, Spanish and English versions, have been updated to have more “kid” appeal. Although the content has not changed, formatting has—font types were updated, new graphics were added, and various font sizes were used.

You will also notice that the covers now contain a distinctive colored band down the middle to help you more easily distinguish between elementary and middle school handbooks. Middle school handbooks have a blue band, and elementary handbooks, a yellow one.

The G.R.E.A.T. Program provides handbooks free of charge to any certified G.R.E.A.T. instructor. To order, go to www.great-online.org/GREATOfficers/Login. To ensure delivery in time for your first class, submit your request at least four weeks before your classes are scheduled to begin. Please note that student graduation certificates will now be automatically included with your handbook orders. It is no longer necessary to place a separate certificate order with your regional office. Certificates will be shipped along with your handbooks.

Since there are no handbooks for the upcoming school year. Do not copy old and outdated handbooks, as the curriculum is copyrighted. Not only will you benefit by saving money and ensuring that your instructor status remains active, your students will appreciate and benefit from the new handbooks as well.

G.R.E.A.T. Curricula and Slideshows

Now Available for Download!

The latest English versions of the G.R.E.A.T. Instructor’s Curricula and overhead slideshows are now available for download to all certified, active G.R.E.A.T. instructors. The Spanish version of the G.R.E.A.T. Instructor’s Curricula will be available for download in the near future. The curricula include the middle and elementary school curricula, the G.R.E.A.T. Summer Program Procedures and Resources, and the G.R.E.A.T. Families information sheet. The overhead slideshows are available in PowerPoint format for instructors to use in classrooms having LED projectors, instead of overhead projectors. If you choose to use these PowerPoint slideshows, it is suggested that you download them over the summer to become familiar with them before using them in the classroom this fall.

It is important to note that an active instructor is one who has attended a G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training (GOT) within the last 12 months or who has submitted teaching data through the student handbook ordering process at least once during a 24-month period. Teaching data, for example, includes the number of students, the number of schools where G.R.E.A.T. was taught, and the number of classes graduated.

Instructors will be automatically inactivated if they have not attended a GOT in the most previous 12-month period or have not reported teaching data for 24 months. Once inactivated, the instructor will no longer be able to access the Instructor Resources Web page, where curricula and other critical items are located.

An e-mail regarding the curriculum download Web page was sent to all instructors who are listed in the database. If you did not receive this e-mail, please update your account so you will receive future e-mail notifications.

If you have any questions about the curriculum download site, the slideshows, or inactivated status, please contact the G.R.E.A.T. National Program Office at (800) 726-7070 or information@great-online.org.

Choose to be G.R.E.A.T.

Effective Communication - Midwest Region Tools

After working within a police department for many years it has been engrained in me – and I would guess many of you, have found that the first thing to fail when it most needed is communication. With this in mind, I would like to focus on two of the Midwest Region’s communication tools: the regional newsletter and the website (www.mwgreat.org).
Choose to be G.R.e.A.t.

In an effort to recognize the importance of sharing information and positive stories about G.R.E.A.T. within your communities, our newsletter distribution list consists of community stakeholders such as police chiefs, sheriffs, principals/school administrators, school board members, and local, state, and national politicians. If you would like to add someone to our newsletter mailing list, just send us an email and we will be glad to add them.

REGIONAL WEBSITE

Timeliness is also a major component of effective communication, which is why I strongly recommend that you visit our website (www.mwgreat.org) frequently. The Midwest website is a mode of communication in which we take great pride. Teri, our Midwest Regional Administrative Assistant, is continually updating our site to ensure that we provide the most current information on curricula updates, trainings, and funding opportunities. We have also uploaded materials to help G.R.E.A.T. officers do their jobs more efficiently. For example, we have uploaded the extended materials to help G.R.E.A.T. officers do their jobs more efficiently. For example, we have uploaded the extended teacher activities in a PDF format so you can print a single lesson or the entire 13-lesson package. You can access the extended activities at the school to give to the teachers.

An example of how we try to serve our region’s G.R.E.A.T. officers and their agencies is the recent announcement of the “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.” This Act included $4 billion law enforcement grant funds, with short turnaround time for applications. If you only relied on our newsletter to get important news out, many of you might have missed the application deadlines. In order to quickly disseminate this important funding information, we simply emailed an urgent grant message to many of you, with direct links to our website where we posted links to the grant information. If you did not receive our email message and would like to be added to our email list, please send us an email and we will make sure you are added. When you have a few minutes between teaching G.R.E.A.T. lessons, please visit our website at http://www.mwgreat.org/. We are very proud of our website!

Remember, feel free to call us at any time, if there is anything that the Midwest RTC can do to help you with your G.R.E.A.T. program.

2009 GOI a G.R.E.A.T. Success Networking and Information Sharing were the Focus of the Midwest GOI

The Midwest Region hosted its 2009 G.R.E.A.T. Officer In-service (GOI) in Minneapolis, MN, April 6 – 8. The GOI is specifically designed to be a 2½ day training, driven by the participants’ interests and concerns. Training staff members are directed to facilitate and develop each topic discussed, as well as present a few predefined educational blocks to generate further discussion. The feedback from the 21 G.R.E.A.T. officers who attended this training indicated that it was a great success.

Outstanding topics at this year’s GOI included a block presented by one of our G.R.E.A.T. educator’s, Sharon Floyd. She did an excellent job guiding discussions and providing information as it relates to students with disabilities and their learning capabilities. Another topic that was highly rated was the officer networking session during which G.R.E.A.T. Officers shared their creative ideas and approaches to the G.R.E.A.T.-Funded Agencies

All agencies with active FY 2007 or 2008 federal grants, should have received the questionnaires by early January 2009. If your jurisdiction/agency has an active G.R.E.A.T. grant and you did not receive the questionnaires and instructions, please call our office at 1-877-TO-GREAT and we will help you get in touch with the National Program Office and your BJA State Policy Advisor, to obtain the necessary documents.

Non-Funded Agencies:

Why didn’t we get the questionnaire? Currently, only G.R.E.A.T.-funded agencies’ statistics will be entered into the G.R.E.A.T. National Program Office’s database. However, this does not mean that your students’ feedback is not important. If you are interested in learning what your G.R.E.A.T. middle school students think, you are more than welcome to implement the pre- and post-questionnaire in your classes. The resulting statistics from the questionnaires are for you and your agency to study and learn from. To download the pre- and post-questionnaires, visit the Midwest Region website and click on the Pre/Post Student Questionnaire article located at the bottom of the homepage.

Pre/Post Student Questionnaire

Are you interested in finding out what your students think of G.R.E.A.T.’s Middle School Component?

The G.R.E.A.T. National Program Office has developed a questionnaire to enable the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to collect data regarding the effectiveness of the G.R.E.A.T. Program and allow BJA to meet the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). If your agency is currently receiving G.R.E.A.T. grant funding, in order to meet the Special Conditions of your grant award, the questionnaire must be completed by every student who participates in the Middle School component. The National Program Office will process the questionnaires and report the analyzed data back to each agency and to BJA. On the other hand, if your agency is not receiving funding, you are still encouraged to participate on a local basis.

What do your students think of G.R.E.A.T.?

G.R.E.A.T.-Funded Agencies

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A Midwest Welcome to our 
Newest National Training Team Members

I would like to congratulate the following G.R.E.A.T. Officers from the Midwest on their recent recommendation to become a G.R.E.A.T. National Team Leader and their completion of the G.R.E.A.T. Team Leader Training.

- Drew Macon of Lansing Police Department, Michigan
- Rodney Anderson of Lansing Police Department, Michigan
- Kendall Moore of Indianapolis Metro Police Department, Indiana
- Kurt Weaver of La Crosse Police Department, Wisconsin

These officers need to successfully complete two additional training phases, in order to achieve their goal of becoming a full-fledged member of the G.R.E.A.T. National Training Team. We wish them continued success and look forward to seeing them in our trainings.

Thinking About Becoming a National Training Team Member?

To become part of the National Training Team (NTT), you must successfully complete all 8 phases of the Team Leader process; as well as meet numerous professional standards including: strong responsiveness to instruction; extensive personal initiative; strong ability to develop interpersonal relationships and to communicate effectively with adult learners; good time-management skills; be exemplary role models in both formal and informal situations; and most importantly, be committed to the careful replication of the G.R.E.A.T. Program. An explanation of each phase is listed below.

**Phase 1**
G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training (GOT): First (and the most obvious) is to complete of a 40- or 80-hour G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training (GOT) in order to become a certified G.R.E.A.T. instructor.

**Phase 2**
Classroom Instruction Experience: Next, classroom experience is required. The minimum requirement is to teach at least one-year to include six 13-week middle school classes.

**Phase 3**
Application/Video/References: To apply and be considered to attend the G.R.E.A.T. Team Leader Training (GTLT), you must complete the application process which involves a written application, interactive video, and professional references.

**Phase 4**
Phone Interview: Once your application has been reviewed for completeness, you will have a phone interview with your Regional Administrator.

**Phase 5**
G.R.E.A.T. Team Leader Training (GTLT): The GTLT is not held every year; it is held on an as-needed basis. Once you’ve successfully completed your phone interview, you will be contacted by the National Program Office with travel and training arrangements to attend the next GTLT.

**Phase 6**
Team Leader in Training: In this phase, you will shadow a National Training Team member at a 40-hour G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training.

**Phase 7**
Solo Team Leader in Training: You will employ your skills from phase 6 to lead your own team at a 40- or 80-hour G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training.

**Phase 8**
Team Leader.

Keep your eyes open for the next GTLT posting, but you can be sure that the Midwest RTC will let you know via website or email when this training is available again. (If you are not currently on our mailing list, send an email to contactus@mwgreat.org to be added.)

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Choose to be G.R.E.A.T.

Officer Dan Pauley, Woodstock Police Department, IL, has been a G.R.E.A.T. Officer since 2006. After teaching the program for a few years, Officer Pauley issued an ultimate challenge to his students at the two middle schools where he delivers the G.R.E.A.T. lessons. Rather than selecting a final project for his students, Officer Pauley encouraged the students at each school, to brainstorm and select their own final project, one that would benefit their school, as well as their community.

After speaking with teachers and observing today’s economy, the students at each middle school decided that they would like to help the people in their community by collecting food for their local food pantry. Officer Pauley gave the kids a little incentive by offering the school that collected the most food a celebratory pizza party. Excited, the students began their task of collecting food.

Throughout the 10-week project, Officer Pauley enhanced the students’ project by sharing news articles, in the classroom that pertained to food shortages within their community. With this project, Officer Pauley’s goal was to help define and demonstrate the word “Empathy,” as explained to the students in Lesson 7 of the core curriculum.

At the conclusion of their G.R.E.A.T. lessons, the students had collectively gathering 1,100 pounds of food for their local food pantry! Officer Pauley’s students certainly put forward a G.R.E.A.T. effort in order to help out their community – and in the end, each G.R.E.A.T. student clearly understood the meaning of the word “empathy.”

Host Your Own G.R.E.A.T. Training

Do you want to go to G.R.E.A.T. Training, but can’t afford to be away from home for one or two weeks? We have a solution!

The G.R.E.A.T. Midwest Regional Training Center is willing to pack up and bring a G.R.E.A.T. Training to you. If your agency can meet our minimum requirements, we’d be happy to have you host a training.

Minimum Requirements for Hosting a G.R.E.A.T. Training

1. Provide us with a list of at least 20 officers from your agency or from the surrounding area that want to be G.R.E.A.T. trained.
2. Provide a training facility that meets G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training Guidelines. The guidelines below are taken from Training Policy 102.

Main Classroom Area: minimum of 1,800 square feet

The training classroom should be large enough to comfortably seat the participants, training staff, and any approved observers. Adequate work space to permit interactive group learning is critical to the training process.

The host agency must provide:

- classroom-style seating with suitable tables and chairs.
- a podium and/or instructor table in the front of the classroom.
- one whiteboard or chalkboard of adequate size with markers or chalk.

It would be helpful if the host agency could provide six easel stands and flip chart paper, but is not required.

Breakout Rooms: 6 rooms at a minimum of 280 square feet

The availability of breakout rooms for each training team is a necessity. The host agency must provide a classroom-style seating for ten.

Additional Equipment

- Whiteboard and/or Chalkboard
- Overhead Projector
- Multimedia Projector
- Projection Screen (6-foot-wide minimum)
- 6 Easel Stands w/ paper
- Copy Machine
- Wall Clock

To view the entire Training Procedure for TP102, visit the G.R.E.A.T. National Website at www.great-online.org, click on the “Organization” link.