Greetings! My name is Lt. Bob Heimbach of the Portland Oregon Police Bureau. I have been the West Region Administrator for just over a year now and must admit time has gone by very quickly. Not only have I learned a tremendous amount about the G.R.E.A.T. program, I have been exposed to some awesome programs at many different agencies throughout the region and taught my first class last fall.

While I have always known the importance of prevention over intervention and heard how rewarding it is to be a G.R.E.A.T. officer, now I really get it. It is hard to explain how much I got out of teaching and working with my class. It was especially rewarding to see the students that were quiet in the beginning later become fully engaged by the end of the lessons.

At Hosford Middle School in Portland, Oregon, I was impressed by the students’ willingness to get involved with their community project. Since it was fall leading into the holidays, my class, along with the other three classes and their G.R.E.A.T. officers, elected to pool resources and conduct a food drive for the Portland Police Bureau Sunshine Division. Together our classes collected 840 pounds of non-perishable foods to be distributed to needy families in our community.

It was encouraging to see these young people caring and contributing. One of the most moving stories was from a student who at one time had received food from this charity and was now able to give back.

One of the more interesting challenges I have faced was to come into a position that is experiencing serious budget reductions. Inside the newsletter is a good article describing in detail the challenges and the cut back of millions of dollars to the program. While the news on the grants is discouraging, we can be thankful that the program will still provide training to new G.R.E.A.T. officers and the workbooks for the students. A little known fact is that while less than 30 grants were awarded last year, and those numbers will most likely drop again, over 500 law enforcement agencies nationwide continue to teach G.R.E.A.T. without the benefit of a grant. Here in the West Region we have 87 agencies currently teaching and more coming on board. Only a few have grants, but the rest know the benefits of teaching G.R.E.A.T. and make it happen out of their budgets.

Finally, on the national level we will continue to look for ways to make our limited resources go farther and I expect we will all have another successful year reaching the lives of the students we all interact with in the classrooms, club houses and youth groups.
Is Copyrighted

The G.R.E.A.T. name (with periods following each letter), the logo as shown above, and the G.R.E.A.T. curricula are protected by federal copyright and trademark laws. What does that mean to you, the G.R.E.A.T. instructor, and your agency?

It means that while G.R.E.A.T. instructors have authorization to use the G.R.E.A.T. logo on business cards and stationery within prescribed guidelines (see G.R.E.A.T. Policy P111), the use of the logo on any other printed material or promotional items is strictly controlled and subject to the approval of the G.R.E.A.T. Quality Review Committee (QRC). Although the G.R.E.A.T. Program recognizes that G.R.E.A.T. instructors may create custom lessons to serve as supplemental material to the standard G.R.E.A.T. curricula, the G.R.E.A.T. name and logo may not be used in conjunction with any such customized lessons or curricula.

Questions regarding the use of the G.R.E.A.T. name and logo should be directed to:

G.R.E.A.T. Program
ATTN: QRC
Institute for Intergovernmental Research
Post Office Box 12729
Tallahassee, FL 32317

More Resources Available for Active G.R.E.A.T. Instructors

The Instructor Resources page on the G.R.E.A.T. Web site has new curricular material available for active instructors. In order to access the new and updated material, G.R.E.A.T. instructors must log into the Instructor Resource page at [https://www.great-online.org/GREATOfficers/Login.aspx?lo=true](https://www.great-online.org/GREATOfficers/Login.aspx?lo=true).

The material is located under the Curricula and Policy Revisions link and includes the following new items:

- G.R.E.A.T. Instructor’s Curricula (Spanish)
- Overhead slides (Spanish)
- Change memorandums (English)
- Extended Teacher Activities—Middle and Elementary School (English)
- Parent letters—Middle and Elementary School (English and Spanish)
- Extended Teachers Activities in Spanish Soon

If you have any questions about the new materials or an inactive instructor status, please contact the G.R.E.A.T. National Program Office at (800) 726-7070 or send an e-mail to information@great-online.org.

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“Bring Back Dino” Mascot Project

By Fran Gingell Hokkanen -Tallahassee, FL


The Cabazon Elementary School’s concrete dinosaur mascot, in Riverside County, California, was destroyed by vandals this past January. The fourth grade G.R.E.A.T. students took action and decided to bring their mascot back to life by starting the “Bring Back Dino” project.

With the help of their G.R.E.A.T. instructor, Detective Doug Monte, and community sponsorships, the students were able to raise an amazing $3,600 in 6-weeks to have Dino-Rex constructed and transported back home to the school. For more information on the story of Dino-Rex, please visit the G.R.E.A.T. Web site at [http://www.great-online.org/News/Default.aspx](http://www.great-online.org/News/Default.aspx) and the official project Web site, www.BringBackDino.com.
G.R.E.A.T. Funding Update

Funding for G.R.E.A.T. grants to local programs has been greatly reduced over the last two years. In FY2009, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) made only 28 grants to local communities and law enforcement agencies to support their local G.R.E.A.T. Programs. This represents a 66 percent decrease from the 82 grants awarded in FY2008 and an 83 percent drop from the 165 FY2007 grants. Total funding for the Program has been reduced by more than 50 percent from the FY2007 appropriation.

Funding for the G.R.E.A.T. Program is appropriated to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and OJJDP, in prior years, passed through the majority of the appropriated funds to BJA to administer the G.R.E.A.T. Program. Until FY2010, the appropriation has always specifically stated that the funding was to support G.R.E.A.T. In FY2010, the specific reference to the G.R.E.A.T. Program was removed from the appropriation language, and OJJDP retained half of the appropriated funds, leaving only $5 million to support the G.R.E.A.T. Program.

Considering that the majority of the over 500 agencies teaching the program in the current year have done so without federal funding, BJA, after discussion with our national partners, decided that it was important to continue to support the training of new instructors. Because of the funding realities, BJA has decided to use the majority of the funds it received from OJJDP to support the infrastructure (e.g., instructor training, Regional Training Centers, printing student handbooks, etc.) that is needed to continue the Program, with hopes that funding will be restored in the future. Therefore, there will not be a solicitation issued in 2010 to fund local programs. To distribute the remaining funds (less than $1 million), BJA will select applications for new G.R.E.A.T. projects from the list created during the FY2009 competitive process. These applicants will be offered the opportunity to receive start-up funds that will allow them to send instructors to be trained and implement the Program in their communities.

Law enforcement agencies currently teaching the G.R.E.A.T. curricula are encouraged to include G.R.E.A.T. in their Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program proposals. The JAG Program provides local, state, and tribal governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas, including law enforcement; prosecution and courts; prevention and education; corrections and community corrections; drug treatment and enforcement; planning, evaluation, and technology improvement; and crime victim and witness initiatives. For instance, agencies who have applied for G.R.E.A.T. grants to support their summer program in the past may want to consider including the summer program costs as part of their JAG application. More information about the JAG Program is available at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/jag.html.

BJA continues to support the G.R.E.A.T. Program as the most effective means of preventing young people from becoming involved in behavior that may lead to a life of crime, whether it is drug and alcohol abuse, acts of violence, or gang activity. G.R.E.A.T. instructor certification training will still be provided free of cost to any eligible criminal justice agency, and all active G.R.E.A.T. instructors will be able to obtain student handbooks at no cost to their agency. BJA believes that the funding decisions that have been made for FY2010 will provide the best opportunity for G.R.E.A.T. to continue to expand and benefit students nationwide. Agencies teaching the program are encouraged to continue sharing information about their individual program successes with their legislators, so they will know why they should continue to support G.R.E.A.T.

Selma Community Pitches In to Create a G.R.E.A.T. Camping Experience by Officer Dan Barcellos

G.R.E.A.T. instructor Danny Barcellos, from the Selma Police Department in Selma, California, wanted to give area youth an opportunity to discuss G.R.E.A.T. lessons in a not-so typical setting. With the recreation director, Mikal Kirchner, in partnership with Selma Activities League and with the help of many community people/sponsors, 35 youth from Selma, California, went on a camping trip at the Wishon Point Campground at Bass Lake, California this past Memorial Day weekend.

Officer Barcellos wanted to incorporate G.R.E.A.T. concepts by helping the youths identify with their community and show them how “they could do their part to keep the community ‘green.’” The youths also learned how to pitch their own tents; went fishing, hiking, swimming; rode a party barge and a ski boat; and even got pulled on inner tubes behind the boats. On their morning hikes, the youth picked up any and all the trash around the campground to do their part to keep the campground free of pollutants.

At the main campsite, Officer Barcellos facilitated a 45-minute G.R.E.A.T. lesson titled “Say It Like You Mean It,” which taught the youth about refusal skills. From this lesson, the youth learned six ways to refuse others, in addition to coming up with their own ways of refusing and picking the one they felt most comfortable using. They were then presented with a scenario and given a chance to show how to use their chosen refusal skill. The other youth had to identify what refusal skill was used to refuse the temptation in the scenario. After some serious learning, the youth headed to the waterfront for some fun.

Officer Barcellos described the youths’ reaction to the trip, “To see their smiles was almost indescribable—they were smiling from ear to ear… Many of the kids said they were having such a good time that they were not ready to go home and are ready for another camping trip next year.”

It was not easy for Officer Barcellos to put together such a fun-filled and educational trip. A camping event like this takes an incredible amount of planning and assistance. He had the support of community businesses and people to give the youth an experience they will never forget. Manpower, money, supplies, and food were all donated by local Selma community members wanting to make a difference in the lives of youths. The following companies and private persons provided either their support or supplies for the camping trip: Rent Me RV of Selma, Selma Pallet, Glacier Refrigeration, Selma Disposal, Don Berry Construction, Tucker and Associates, McCarty Collision Center, Thomas Robinson Funeral Home, Dave and Sara Miramontes, Bob Kirchner, Food 4 Less, Kraft Foods, Bar S, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Wal-Mart, Frito-Lay, and Rainbow Bread.

Officer Barcellos also gave thanks to Dean and Alice Barcellos of Hanford, who worked relentlessly to prepare all of the meals for everyone throughout this trip, as well as Detective Cassy Fain, Officer Derek Gagnon, Officer Angel Landin, Officer Richard Figueroa, Ms. Frances Figueroa, and Mr. Doug Wells for chaperoning. Without them, this event would not have been possible.
Student Handbooks Have Their Own “Extreme Makeover”

Middle school and elementary school student handbooks have been completely revamped—not only in how they look but also in how they are ordered.

First, the online process for ordering student handbooks through the Instructor Resources page on the G.R.E.A.T. Web site has changed in appearance and functionality. For example, the system automatically totals the numbers, and it will also check for errors as data is entered in the online form. If mistakes are made, the system will notify users that errors exist and will explain the errors, so they can be corrected. Once the order is correct and complete, the user will receive a message stating that the order has been submitted correctly and the system will send a follow-up e-mail to the user’s e-mail address.

If needed, a hard copy of the order form can be downloaded from the G.R.E.A.T. Web site, under the “Helpful Links” tab. Regardless of the process used to order the student handbooks, it is critical that G.R.E.A.T. instructors submit their orders a minimum of four weeks prior to the time they are needed, to allow time for order processing and delivery.

It is extremely important to be accurate when entering historical and projected teaching data. There are instances in which instructors have inflated the projected number of handbooks they needed to order. This results in stockpiles of handbooks that become outdated and can no longer be used because of content revisions or other changes. In addition, the data that is entered is used for compiling reports for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Congress, and other organizations responsible for approving the funding of the G.R.E.A.T. Program. Teaching data reported in the system should also be accurate and reflect actual numbers of students that completed the G.R.E.A.T. curricula, the number of schools where G.R.E.A.T. was taught, and the number of classes graduated.

Reminder: Only active G.R.E.A.T. instructors can order handbooks. Once the G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training is completed, instructors have 12 months in which to place their first handbook order and begin teaching. If this does not occur, the instructor will be inactivated. After the initial 12-month period following certification, instructors must order handbooks and report on activity at least every 24 months to remain active. The importance of accurate data cannot be stressed enough.

The other substantive change is the format and design of the handbooks. With the goal of making the handbooks more appealing to kids, the G.R.E.A.T. National Training Committee approved a radical new design concept, as well as the use of color in the workbook graphics. To ensure that the cost of including color would not raise the cost of the handbooks, the parent letters and service project form will now be printed separately and shipped with the handbooks. G.R.E.A.T. instructors will be responsible for taking the letters and service project form with them to the classroom for distribution.

If you or your agency still have copies of student handbooks with a copyright date of 2009 (which is printed on the back cover), you can continue to use them until your supply is depleted and the 2010 edition is available for order. However, if you have handbooks with a copyright date of 2008 or earlier, it is time to recycle them and order the most current edition, using the revamped online ordering system. It is also important that all G.R.E.A.T. instructors ensure that all of the students in their schools have the same handbooks to use in class. Please keep this in mind as you compare your handbook inventory with the numbers of projected students you will be teaching this fall.

The revisions to the handbooks have also had an impact on the G.R.E.A.T. Instructor’s Curricula and overhead slides. When your students begin using the new 2010 handbooks, you will need to go through your G.R.E.A.T. Instructor’s Curricula and update the page number references. The National Program Office is updating the G.R.E.A.T. Instructor’s Curricula and overhead slides and will post the updates to the Instructor Resources page on the G.R.E.A.T. Web site as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about the new ordering process or the updated student handbooks, please contact the G.R.E.A.T. National Program Office at (800) 726-7070 or send an e-mail to information@great-online.org.