

Escambia County School District  
Public Relations Coordinator  
kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us  
[850 469-6219](tel:8504696219) (Office)  
[850-393-0539](tel:8503930539) (Cell)  
Feb.24, 2020

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Local Gun Club Supports Law Enforcement Students**

*Presentation made at GSTC Criminal Justice Training Center*

Representatives from the ERML Sportsman Foundation visited the George Stone Technical College's Criminal Justice Training Center on Feb. 25 to present two students attending the GSTC Law Enforcement Academy with scholarship checks for \$1000 each to help the students cover the cost of tuition and lab fees

The two students were Pierce Cotton in Class #56 and J.T. McDaniel in Class # 58. They were selected by Greg Moody, Director, George Stone Criminal Justice Training Center; Cliff Lyster, George Stone Criminal Justice Training Center's Law Enforcement Coordinator; and Sylvia Larson, the program's administrative clerk.

The presentation was led by Mike Roberts a member of the Escambia River Gun Club and the president of the ERML Foundation. The checks were presented by Richard Holsher, Treasurer, and Bob Drandridge, the ERML Foundation Board member who suggested they support they support the Criminal Justice Training Center's students.

The gun club, and their foundation, are happy to encourage tomorrow's law enforcement officers by helping them with their education costs.

"You guys are the next generation of law enforcement officers. You are the people that protect us. The Escambia River Gun Club has always been supportive of law enforcement and, we give scholarships. So,two of you guys are going to get scholarships today," said Mike Roberts.

He also encouraged the students to considering joining their club for access to additional range time and he explained that their membership already includes many people who work in law enforcement.

"A lot of times you guys might feel that you are not appreciated. You really are. The people who do appreciate you are the good guys. The ones that don't appreciate you, they are the bad guys and they are the ones that you are going to be putting in jail."

The Criminal Justice Training Center operates on the George Stone Technical College Campus on Longleaf Drive. The program requires 770 hours of training. While many

students are sponsored by law enforcement agencies who have sent them there for the training, others come in independently and have to cover the cost out of pocket at \$2.76 an hour. GSTC has staff members who can help students research forms of financial assistance such as Pell Grants and scholarships. Support from the community, such as these two scholarships from the ERML Foundation, allow even more students to complete their training with reduced residual student debt, so their support is greatly appreciated by the students and the entire GSTC staff.

For more information about George Stone Technical College, call 850-941-6200. The extension for the Criminal Justice Training Center is ext. 2152.

For more information about the Escambia River Gun Club and their ERML Foundation, go to their web site at: [escambarivergunclub.com](http://escambarivergunclub.com), or call 850-356-6534.

For information about Escambia County's public schools go to: <https://ecsd-fl.schoolloop.com/> Like ECSD on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ecsdfl](http://www.facebook.com/ecsdfl).

Go to the Escambia Schools Public Relations page on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/ecsd.public](http://www.facebook.com/ecsd.public) to see video from the check presentation and pictures of other recent events.

***Hourly rate was corrected to \$2.76.***

ECSD PRC Feb. 25, 2020