



## NEW GED TESTING SITE SERVES GROWING DELGADO ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Sheriff Marlin N. Gusman and the Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's Office (OPCSO) opened in May 2009 a General Educational Development (GED) Testing Center, located at the OPCSO American Textiles Building, to help serve the long list of citizens waiting to take the GED, as well as serve OPCSO inmate students being served in partnership with Delgado's Adult Education program.

Post-Katrina, Orleans Parish lost all of its GED testing centers. Now, the OPCSO center joins Dillard University and Warren Easton High School as the third testing site in the parish.

The center hosted its inaugural GED test May 1-2, and on May 16, the second regional GED graduation ceremony for the New Orleans Metropolitan area was held at Loyola University to honor more than 100 students from literacy and adult education programs, including Delgado's.

Directed by Sean Martin, the Adult Education program at Delgado has been a service provider for three years. During this short tenure, it has steadily grown in enrollment and effectiveness. A partnership with the New Orleans City Council and Orleans Parish Criminal Court Judges resulted in a community site at Tulane Towers in May 2007, and in 2008 a pilot program was launched with Sheriff Marlin Gusman and the OPCSO for inmates in need of adult education services.

As of the third quarter of 2008/2009 fiscal year, the Delgado Adult Education program is already serving more students than in the previous two years combined, on pace to surpass 1,000 students by end of fiscal year. Yet, the program boom has not sacrificed the quality of instruction; retention rates far exceed state requirements, and academic gain rate percentages surpass all National Reporting System data by an average of 16 percentage points.

To date in 2008/2009, 74 of Delgado's Adult Education students have taken the GED and achieved their goal; 47 of them represented the program proudly at the May 16 graduation ceremony.

Of special note: the first-ever graduate of Delgado's Adult Education program, Dana Holliday, just completed her first semester at Charity School of Nursing, where she is working toward earning her associate degree in registered nursing.