



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LCSO Hosts Grand Opening of RISE Center and VEER

Today, the Leon County Sheriff's Office officially opened two new components of its ALLinLEON initiative. The Re-entry, Innovative Services and Empowerment (RISE) OpCenter and the Vocational Education Encouraging Reform (VEER) program are innovative re-entry services, created to reduce recidivism rates and help make Leon County a safer place to live, work and play.

RISE is LCSO's continuum of care initiative, created to serve citizens being released from the Leon County Detention Facility, Department of Corrections, Department of Juvenile Justice and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. RISE is a one-stop resource center with case managers focused on serving returning citizens. Resources will include: employment assistance, education and training, housing assistance, identification documents, substance abuse and mental health services, civil legal services, money management and financial assistance and counseling services.

VEER is LCSO's new program providing vocational training to incarcerated individuals with a desire to broaden their skillset and chances for gainful employment upon release. Offenders will be sentenced to VEER through the courts and will be enrolled in vocational programs, such as commercial driver's license, culinary and automotive mechanics.

LCSO is partnering with dozens of community organizations, educational programs and local employers to provide these much needed services. "Our hope is that these two new programs will be a real game changer for individuals wanting a fresh start. Our goal is to equip them with everything they need to succeed in becoming productive members of our community," said Sheriff Walt McNeil.

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