



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 11, 2017

Deputy Archuleta Honored for Leadership at Drug Court

Brighton, Colo. – On May 1 the Adams/Broomfield Bar Association recognized Deputy Francisco Archuleta as one of the nominees for Peace Officer of the Year during Law Day. Katie Hecker, who used to work as a public defender at the Adams County Justice Center, nominated Archuleta for the award.

Over the years Archuleta has cultivated relationships with the community of people who work at the courthouse such as judges, attorneys and law enforcement officers from other agencies. He also keeps in contact with people who go through the Adams County Drug Court and monitors trends in illegal drug use. Since the Drug Court's inception in 2011, Archuleta has taken on more responsibilities with the Problem Solving Court (PSC) team which includes a district attorney, a public defender, a judge, a coordinator, probation officers, counselors and law enforcement personnel.

"The most rewarding thing about working here is being part of the team at Drug Court. I see a lot of negative things that occur in the community and the Drug Court is something positive that's happening. I'm able to interact with people and build relationships with them. It's always nice to see someone graduate from the program," Archuleta said.

Since the Drug Court's inception in 2011, they've graduated 19 high-risk and high-need individuals. The program has helped 183 participants reduce the number of days they would have spent in jail from a pool of approximately 400 people referred to the program. Drug Court has saved over \$2 million in costs that would have been spent housing offenders in Adams County Detention Facility, Community Corrections Division and Colorado Department of Corrections.

Drug Court follows a probation revocation model, where defendants have their probation taken away for not obeying the law—then they go back to jail for all or part of their original sentence. Program participants are required to stay clean, or off drugs, for a cumulative 450 days during five phases of the program. The Drug Court team uses a system of sticks and carrots to reinforce staying in the program. County Court Judge Leroy Kirby has \$5 gift certificates that he gives to those who stay compliant every 2 weeks. Sanctions include writing papers, doing community service and serving short periods of time in

jail. The Drug Court team encourages participants to admit drug use and follow values of honesty, accountability and no excuses.

“At Drug Court we’re taking people that are well on their way to prison and we’re helping make them productive members of society. By bettering them, we’re helping their families for the next generation,” Archuleta said.

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