



Friday, May 01, 2009

On Tuesday, 07 Apr 2009, the D/MA held its inaugural G.R.E.A.T. Graduation Ceremony at Central High School, in Springfield, MA. One hundred and ninety-eight students from Gerena Elementary and Kennedy Middle schools were honored for their successful completion of the anti-gang program's curriculum. Springfield Police Officer Greg McCain recited a pledge to which the graduates affirmed that they would continue to pursue an education and renounce gang membership.

The event was attended by the graduating students and faculty of the two schools, family members and several dignitaries. U.S. Attorney, Michael Sullivan; Police Commissioner, William Fitchet; Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Alison Hodgkins; and School Superintendent, Alan Ingram all spoke accolades on the success of the program. They also praised the parents and faculty for their adoption of and continued support of the program's mission.

Following the massive amount of positive press and media coverage, GREAT Officers and city officials have received at least nine requests from other schools in the Springfield area pleading that the program be administered in their institutions.

