



Sheriff
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PRESS RELEASE

On Monday, July 15, Deputy Waylon Pollema, the School Resource Officer (SRO) for the Sioux County Sheriff's Office, received the National Association of Resource Officers (NASRO) Regional Exceptional Service Award. This prestigious honor was presented at their National Conference in Orlando, FL. Deputy Pollema was nominated for this award by the Sioux County Attorney's Office.

Exceptional Service Awards are presented to school resource officers who exhibit continuous and sustained service to the school community, which is above and beyond that expected of a normal SRO or school staff member. Sheriff Altena said, "Deputy Pollema's dedication and hard work has developed a SRO program which we are very proud of. His service in our schools has been extremely beneficial."

According to Altena, "The idea originated from a FEMA training seminar I attended in 2010. The topic of the class was, "Rural Domestic Preparedness," with a focus on school safety. Even though most SRO programs are operated in large metropolitan schools on a full-time basis, I believed we could do something on a smaller scale." After the seminar Altena met with several local school and government officials to brainstorm the possibility of such a project in Sioux County. A SRO from the Des Moines Police Department was also present at the meeting to provide input. The group liked the idea but ultimately decided there wasn't money available at the present time to fund a new officer for the project. Because the concept was still very intriguing, Sheriff Altena developed a scaled down version of the original program. The new version was presented to Western Christian High School and Boyden-Hull JR/SR High School; both approved the pilot program for the upcoming year. "We felt this would give the sheriff's office and both schools the opportunity to "test drive" the program to determine if it was worth pursuing" said Altena.

Sheriff Altena appointed Deputy Waylon Pollema as the SRO. The program has been a success since its beginning.

Deputy Pollema credits Sheriff's Office Administration, the schools' faculty, staff, administration and students for their support in making the SRO program enjoyable and a success.

