

Escambia County School District
Public Relations Coordinator
kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us
[850 469-6219](tel:8504696219) (Office)
[850-393-0539](tel:8503930539) (Cell)

Nov. 18, 2019
ECSD NEWS RELEASE

A Life of Service and Instruction Leaves A Tremendous Legacy in Local Law Enforcement

After almost 40 Years of corrections instruction, Gerald W. Russo will watch his last class graduate Wednesday night.

The George Stone Technical College has announced that the GSTC Criminal Justice Training Center's Corrections Class #112 will graduate on Nov. 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the ECSD Success Academy cafeteria.

Class #112 has the distinction of being the last graduating class for Criminal justice instructor Gerald W. Russo. Russo has overseen 110 of those classes, as well as 27 corrections classes at Pensacola State College.

Russo's life of service to his country and community started in 1969 when he began his service in the U.S. Air Force as a jet engine mechanic. He wore the Air Force blue until 1973. He went to Pensacola Junior College to achieve his associates in arts degree in liberal arts and then continued on to the University of West Florida where he graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in Liberal Arts. Later, he enrolled in Troy State where he graduated with a master's degree in public administration in 1983.

During that time, he transitioned to serving locally as a Road Officer for the Escambia County Road Prison from 1980 to 1988 when he was appointed to the position of Director for Escambia County. In 1993, Russo was promoted to the Office of the General Inspector for the State of Florida as the Prison Inspector for Florida's Department of Corrections, Region 1, where he was responsible for the prisons from Escambia County to Tallahassee until 2002.

Meanwhile, he had returned in the classroom as an instructor. First he taught as an adjunct instructor for Troy State University and Pensacola State College, from 1981-2000. From 1981-2000 he was also a criminal justice guest lecturer for the University of West Florida and Pensacola Christian College. In 2005-2012, Russo taught criminal justice, psychology and sociology for West Florida High School and he served as an adjunct instructor for the George Stone Technical College from 1989 to 2012.

In 2012, he was promoted to GSTC's Corrections Coordinator where he helped establish the Criminal Justice Training Academy and he has served in that capacity until now. Russo will be retiring from the Escambia County School District on Dec. 31, 2019. "Gerald Russo has been involved with the criminal justice programs at George Stone Technical College for over 30 years. During that time he has demonstrated a true dedication to the success of academy students and he has impacted the lives of hundreds of students," said GSTC Principal T.J. Rollins. "He leaves behind a legacy of professionalism both in the classroom and in his relationships with those around him."

The ceremony will be held in the cafeteria at the ECSD Success Academy, located at 2400 Longleaf Drive, Pensacola, FL 32526, in buildings previously occupied by West Florida High School. Use the entrance and parking by the George Stone Technical Center.

The point of contact for the ceremony is Gloria Quesada at the GSTC Criminal Justice Center, 850-941-6200, ext. 2165.

Media queries about Escambia County School District topics should be directed to Kim Stefansson, at [850-469-6219](tel:850-469-6219) or kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us. Like ECSD on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ecsdfl

Go to the Escambia Schools Public Relations page on www.facebook.com/ecsd.public to see pictures of recent events.

Visit ECSD's web page at www.escambiaschools.org

ECSD prc 111819