



August 19, 2016

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:** Aaron Church  
Rowan County Manager  
**Phone Number:** (704) 216-8180  
**E-Mail:** aaron.church@rowancountync.gov

**School Resource Officers Receive National Training and Certification**

**SALISBURY, N.C.**—The Rowan County Sheriff’s Office was awarded a \$3,000 State Farm Good Neighbor Citizenship® grant in April to help send Rowan-Salisbury School Resource Officers to the 2016 National School Safety Conference this summer.

Five officers representing the Rowan County Sheriff’s Office, Salisbury Police Department and Spencer Police Department attended the training that took place July 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. These officers represented Erwin, Knox and North Rowan Middle School, as well as Henderson and East Rowan High Schools.

All School Resource Officers that attended the training received Advanced SRO certification. They participated in workshops that taught them how to identify warning signs of abuse mass violence, they learned about responding to crises and creating partnerships with school staff to keep students safe, and they also learned about emerging school safety issues. Training was facilitated by some of the foremost school safety experts in the country.

In a time when the pressure for law enforcement training is greater than the available resources, one of the officers said “This level of training would not have been available without the help of State Farm funding.”

School Resource Officers are responsible for their communities as well as the staff and students in their school. Dr. Lynn Moody, Rowan-Salisbury Schools Superintendent, sums up the importance of this grant like this: “Our Safety Resource Officers are fully trained in law enforcement matters. However, their roles change when they enter our schools. They become safety experts, community liaisons, and sometimes teachers. Safety is priority in our schools and we want our officers to have the best training!”

Since 1922, State Farm® has provided insurance and financial services throughout the United States. State Farm® grant programs support the communities where its employees live and work through programs like the Good Neighbor Citizenship® company grants and the State Farm Companies Foundation.

Rowan Salisbury Schools has School Resource Officers in place at every middle and high school in the district. School Resource officers come from the Rowan County Sheriff’s Office and the police departments from China Grove, Landis, Salisbury and Spencer.





Pictured from left to right:

John Reep (North Rowan Middle); Shanita Millsaps (Knox Middle); Ryan Walker (West Rowan High); Mark Byrd (State Farm); Chief Mike James (Town of Spencer); Sheriff Kevin Auten (Rowan County); Greg Edds (State Farm/Rowan County); Sharon Gardner (Rowan-Salisbury Schools); Tommie Cato (East Rowan High); Lunda Eller (Erwin Middle)