## LAWRENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE August 1, 2008

On July 31, 2008, during the annual training conference in Phoenix, Arizona, the National Association of School Resource Officers recognized the Lawrence Police Department's School Resource Officer program as a National Model Agency. The Model SRO Program award is given annually to law enforcement agencies which have shown excellence in several areas while implementing or maintaining a school resource officer program.

We are extremely proud of our SRO's and the work they have done in the junior and senior high schools. One of the key elements to our success is the level of dedication and concern our officers have for the youth in our community. Our SRO's act as counselors, teachers, and law enforcement officers in an attempt to provide the best possible learning environment for the students. The officers are engaged in a number of student related activities outside of the school as well. Some of those activities include, Police Camp, Alcohol Compliance Checks, Hawks, Cops, and Kids, and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade football program.

Recognized as a vital element to ensuring the safety of our children, the Lawrence Police Department School Resource Officer Program is committed in its partnership, with not only the school district and its faculty and staff, but also our community's leaders, students and parents.

Captain Dan Ward Lawrence Police Department