

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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JERRY E. POWERS
Chief Probation Officer

Los Angeles County Probation Featured on PBS Tuesday March 26, 2013 8:00pm PST



"At the end of the day, even though these minors might have committed a crime, they're still kids. 16- 17-year-old kids." Deputy Probation Officer Rashaad Horton sees his work with probation youth at Park View School in Pomona as the best chance to turn a young life around. "To me, there's nothing more rewarding than seeing this kid's grades improve or seeing this kid who had no hope 1 year, 2 years prior, on stage, getting their high school diploma. When I see those kids at graduation, I've done my job."

Rashaad Horton along with Deputy Probation Officer Tanesha Lockhart are featured in a one hour PBS special Tuesday night, "Education Under Arrest" by Tavis Smiley Reports. Los Angeles County Probation is one of five key programs around the nation programs and services across the country featured as successfully stemming the tide of young people being pushed into the juvenile justice system. Journalist Tavis Smiley focuses on how advocates, teachers, law enforcement and the students themselves are working together to get young people back into high school and through to graduation.

Los Angeles County Probation gave PBS exclusive access to behind the scenes of our school based program. In Deputy Horton's program, probation youth attend an alternative school program that assists probationers in getting back in to high school after incarceration.

One of the most compelling moments during this PBS shoot was when Deputy Probation Officer Tanesha Lockhart describes how she works at her job day in and day out, for what she says every Probation Officer hopes for; "the one". The 'one' is that probation youth who breaks against the odds to succeed. Her "one" is 18 year old Christopher, now a student at the University of California, Irvine.

Watch the video to see the two share what it was like to work so closely together and eventually become friends.

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/tavissmiley/tsr/education-under-arrest/build-on-the-good/

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