

COLLEGE EDUCATED BURNSVILLE POLICE RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARD FROM PACE - 12/12/2001

The Burnsville Police Department received a national award for outstanding leadership in policing from the Police Association for College Education or PACE. The award, presented on Tuesday, December 11 by PACE Executive Director Dr. Louis Mayo, credits Burnsville's high standards as one of 50 law enforcement agencies in the nation that require a four-year college education for officers.

"The complexities inherent in policing dictate that officers possess a high degree intellect, education, tact, sound judgement, physical courage, emotional stability, impartiality and honesty, " commented Dr. Louis A. Mayo. "Mistakes in judgement could cause irreparable harm to citizens and community... I commend the Burnsville Police Department and City Officials for establishing the recommended college degree standards for officers with the resulting quality of professional service to the community," added Mayo.

The practice of hiring college graduates for Burnsville Police Officer positions originally began in 1968, where recruiting efforts by then Police Chief Dave Couper referred to "joining the Domestic Peace Corps" and the "new breed" of police officers. Burnsville has continued the requirement and achieved favorable results for the community including becoming one of the first Police Departments in the nation to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in 1991.

The Police Association for College Education is a non-profit professional association established in Year 2000 to improve the quality of police services nationwide through the promotion and establishment of college degreed standards.