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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Assistant Fire Chief attains prestigious certification

LITTLE ELM (July 14, 2015) After an intense four-year course of study in the field of Fire Science, Little Elm's Assistant Fire Chief has attained the prestigious Executive Fire Officer designation from the National Fire Academy.

Chief Brian Roach, who also serves as the Town's Fire Marshal, was recently recognized at a meeting of the Town Council as Fire Chief Joe Florentino presented him with the framed certificate.

The National Fire Academy, located in Maryland, administers the Executive Fire Officer program which provides local senior fire officials with a broad range of instruction on fire and emergency service administration.

The various courses and research projects provide a close look at how to exercise leadership in dealing with difficult or unique problems within communities around the country.

Students sharpen their professional skills and develop thoughtful solutions to issues through a series of four graduate equivalent courses over a four-year period. The two-week courses are held at the Academy's campus. The intensity of the two weeks is magnified by the follow-up requirement of an applied research project, relevant to the student's home city and department, and must be completed within six months of completing the classroom portion.

Chief Roach completed the four classes and accompanying research projects within the time frame allotted, scoring perfectly on three of the four projects. The projects are the scholastic equivalent of major research papers in a college graduate course, and are graded at that level.

Acceptance into the program requires applicants to be in a chief officer level position and have a minimum of a bachelor's degree. Additionally, the Fire Chief must provide a statement of organizational commitment to support the student in completing both the courses and the applied research.

During the four-year period, Chief Roach counted on the backing of Chief Florentino, the Town's administrative staff, and his colleagues in the Fire Department, all of which provided moral support, encouragement and reinforcement.

"It's very clear that I would not have been able to complete this grueling course without that support," he said.

Chief Roach becomes the first member of the Little Elm Fire Department to have attained the certification.

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Photo and cutline accompany this release.

**ABOUT LITTLE ELM** – Little Elm is one of the state's fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm's population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town's footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.

## PHOTO AND CUTLINE



**Little Elm Fire Chief Joe Florentino (left) presents Assistant Chief and Fire Marshal Brian Roach the framed certificate designating Roach as Executive Fire Officer at a recent Town Council meeting. The designation required Chief Roach to complete a four-year, highly intensive program of leadership and applied research.**