

leadership on new collaborations with the National Honor Society, National Collegiate Honors Council, National Science Foundation, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, Coca-Cola Foundation, Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Better World Books, Ford Motor Company and MBNA.

While serving as executive director, Risley earned a master's of business administration degree from Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss., and is currently completing his doctoral dissertation in the Community College Leadership Program at Mississippi State University, Starkville.

In 2007, Risley was elected chair of the Mississippi Humanities Council and will serve as the

council's representative to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Risley has served as a grant reviewer for the National Science Foundation and AACC, and a national judge for the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Foundation and Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. In 2001, he was named a Fellow in the Mid-South Community College Fellowship Program. Risley was presented Distinguished Alumni Awards by the American Association of Community Colleges and San Jacinto College. He was recently elected to serve on the board for the Mississippi Center for Non-Profits.

Risley leads a staff of 70 at the PTK headquarters located in Jackson, Miss.

# Speaker Knows GED Firsthand

**S**taff Sgt. Dale McKee will be the speaker for the GED graduation at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15, in the Gymnasium. A reception follows in the Common Plaza.

"I am not talking about the benefits of the Army at the GED graduation," McKee said. "I am talking about the accomplishments I've had as a result of earning my GED. I am going to congratulate the graduates and tell them they should be proud of their achievement. A GED is not something to take lightly."

McKee has a close association with Project Finish, sponsored by JCCC and the Johnson County Library. In his job as an Army recruiter in Olathe, McKee sees to it that recruits have the necessary qualifications – including a GED – to go on to active service. If lacking the prerequisites, "future soldiers," as McKee prefers to call recruits, are directed to the Olathe Center's Project Finish to complete their GED preparation and tests.

"I can't say enough good things about the teachers and staff at Project Finish," McKee said. "They are not judgmental. They are very respectful and supportive of everybody."

A native of Baxter Springs, he was 20 before he completed a GED while working as a car mechanic in Chicago. When McKee decided to pursue a career in law enforcement, he earned an

associate's degree in criminal justice from Labette Community College, Parsons. An investigator for the city of Parsons encouraged McKee to join the military police. So at age 26, McKee enlisted in the Army to help with his career and pay off student loans. That was 10 years ago, and McKee has served at U.S. bases and been deployed twice – to Bosnia in 1998 and to Qatar in 2003. He will serve 36 months as a recruiter and is in the process of applying to be an agent in the Army Criminal Investigation Division.

"I am honored to be the speaker at JCCC's GED graduation," he said.

