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DJJ Enters New Partnership

On Monday, February 20, DJJ along with Clemson University's Youth Learning Institute and Columbia College held a press conference to announce a partnership that will help students who are not succeeding in traditional classroom settings. Under an existing partnership with Clemson University, the Department refers some of its non-violent students to a university operated alternative placement program in Aiken County.

While, the press conference was held on a state holiday, DJJ was well represented by staff including three of our teachers who are graduates of the Columbia College program. They are Belinda Mceachern and Karen Herring of Willow Lane School, and Gloria Fluker, Birchwood School.

Under the new partnership, Columbia College will offer its master's of education degree in Divergent Learning in Aiken, allowing graduate students to walk out of a lecture and immediately into an environment where theory can be applied. The first class is expected to start in May.

Arts in Education Curricular Grant

DJJ's School District has been approved to receive a \$10,500 grant to implement an arts integration curriculum in our schools. The grant was awarded by the South Carolina Department of Education and will be used by DJJ teachers for professional development arts institutes during the summer.

Charlene Hale Retires

Congratulation to Charlene Hale, former residential facilities manager, who has retired after 39 years of service to state government with 37 years at DJJ.



Shown are PbS site coordinators with Judge Byars and Dr. Hayes

Staff at PbS facilities recognized

A key element for successful PbS implementation is a system for recognizing the accomplishments of staff. As part of DJJ's on-going efforts to strengthen PbS implementation, an agency-wide awards ceremony was held for staff from the seven participating facilities.

The facilities include our Detention Center, Evaluation Centers, and long-term institutions. In addition to the presentation of awards, PbS Primary Consultant Dave Crowley, delivered a special message to staff.

Special recognition went to the Detention Center staff for "Exceeding the National Averages in 85% of the PbS Critical Outcome Measures" and to the Midlands Evaluation Center staff for "Exceeding the National Averages in 73% of the PbS Outcome Measures."

PbS site coordinators are Sherri Robinson-Hill, Detention Center; Lt. Marvin Haygood, Midlands Evaluation Center; Tonya Hart, Coastal Evaluation Center; Joyce Jones, Upstate Evaluation Center; Nicole Hardy, Willow Lane, Kathy Byrd-Bryant, John G. Richards Campus; Mona Saylor, Birchwood Campus; and Willie Portee, BRRC.



Left is Rebecca Wallace, Aiken TASC coordinator, with (far right) Yolanda Cornish, TASC statewide coordinator, Max Dorsey, Midlands Regional administrator and others at the center's opening

New TASC Center Opens

DJJ, in collaboration with Second Baptist Church and the Christian Preparatory School recently opened a Teen After School Center in Aiken. DJJ's TASC was developed to reduce the number of youth coming into the juvenile justice system and to serve juveniles requiring additional structure and assistance beyond normal probation or parole. There are 12 TASC sites around the state.



DJJ Newly Named Captains

Newly named captains in the Division of Rehabilitative Services were recently recognized during a ceremony at the Willow Lane Activities Center and Chapel. They are first shift, Cpt. Priscilla Pee (WL), Cpt. Anthony McLaurin (JGR), and Cpt. Tamiko Manigault-Peay (BWD). Second shift, Cpt. Thomas Days (WL), Cpt. Lawrence White (JGR), and Cpt. Melvin Jenkins (BWD). Third shift: Cpt. Verlie Griffin (WL), Cpt. Lisa Harley (JGR), Cpt. Clayton Garvin (BWD).