
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Department of Juvenile Justice Enters Partnership

On Monday, February 20, the Department of Juvenile Justice along with Clemson University's Youth Learning Institute and Columbia College held a press conference to formally announce a partnership aimed at helping 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 an alternative placement program in Aiken County that is operated by the university. Under the new partnership, Columbia College will offer its master's of education degree in Divergent Learning in Aiken, which will allow graduate students to walk out of a lecture and immediately into an environment where theory can be applied in directly working with youth. The first class is expected to start in May.

DJJ Will Receive Technical Assistance

The Department of Juvenile Justice has been approved to receive technical assistance through the Formula Grant program to bring in nationally recognized consultants to provide gender-responsive training. This training, which will occur in two sessions scheduled in spring-summer 2006, will involve up to 120 staff members. Participants will receive skills training in working effectively with girls in the juvenile justice system, as well as specific group facilitation skills. As an end-result of this training, a core group of DJJ staff will be certified as trainers, and will be able to sustain the effort to provide gender-responsive services to girls in alignment with nationally accepted best practices.

Arts in Education Curricular Grants Program

The Department of Juvenile Justice School District has been approved to receive a \$10,500 grant to implement an arts integration curriculum in its 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.

Schedule

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| February 20 | Divergent Learning Press Conference
Breed Leadership Center, Columbia College |
| February 21 | Friends of Juvenile Justice Faith-Based Luncheon
DJJ's Willow Lane Chapel |
| February 24 | South Carolina United Way Board Meeting
DJJ's Willow Lane Chapel |