

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

DJJ Social Workers Receive Cultural Diversity Training

In March, DJJ social workers were offered management training in cultural diversity principles to enhance individual and team workplace performance. Conducted by Dr. Thomas Gordon, a licensed psychologist and organizational effectiveness consultant from Philadelphia, PA., the training came at a pivotal time – during the historical observance of social work professionals.

Dr. Gordon who travels extensively conducting management training to public and private organizations donated his time to DJJ.

DJJ Teacher Awarded Fulbright Scholarship to Study in Bulgaria

DJJ educates incarcerated middle and high school students in its special school district where certified teachers teach juveniles who are in many instances two to three grade levels behind. Lousia Bradford, a Birchwood High School social studies teacher, is one of those teachers and she was recently notified of her acceptance as a Fulbright Scholar. She will receive nearly six weeks of development training this summer in Bulgaria along with 20 other high school and college teachers.

Number of diplomas and GEDs are expected to be high for DJJ

In the classrooms of DJJ, some of the state's most troubled youth are being educated, and a measure of the agency's educational goals are being achieved. We anticipate that approximately 10 high school diplomas and 120 GEDs could be awarded in May – making this the largest graduating class ever for DJJ.

Spring Fling sale showcases students' work

On April 8, students in DJJ's vocational education programs - from horticulture, carpentry, welding to culinary arts - showcased their work during a Spring Fling sale at Birchwood High School. While items were sold during this special sale, students regularly offer a variety of items for sale including adirondack chairs, picnic and cast iron tables and chairs, birdbaths, utility trailers, and occasionally plants. Proceed from sales go to support the vocational education program.

North/South All-Star Game

Intramural sports are important to teaching life skills to juveniles at DJJ. On April 3, the DJJ boys had the opportunity to compete on the basketball court against the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention team in the North-South All-Star Game. The North Carolina team traveled to Columbia and won the game, however, it was a good learning experience for the boys.

Schedule:

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| April 15 - 19 | Provide training in reform procedures for judges, DSS personnel, and other child protection stakeholders – Minnesota |
| April 21 | Attend TASC (Teen After School Centers) Press Conference
State House |
| April 22 | Speak at DJJ Rehabilitative Services Volunteer Recognition Dinner
DJJ, Willow Lane Chapel |