

**Cabinet Report
May 21, 2004**

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Program Development

As part of its efforts to support community programs, the SC Department of Juvenile Justice has been awarded a \$741,393 grant from the State Workforce Investment Board in coordination with the South Carolina Employment Security Commission to implement a Juvenile Employment Enrichment Program for youthful offenders. The program is designed to provide employability skills training, job placement, social skills training, and vocational training to youths age 14-18, in Marlboro, Jasper, Allendale, and Orangeburg counties.

Volunteer Donations

Among the volunteer groups that work on behalf of youthful offenders, the Lake Murray-Irmo Rotary Club has identified the DJJ's sports program as a benefactor of its support by supplying sports equipment. In addition, the club has donated two (2) desk computers, electronic and hard copy encyclopedia set, and fiction/non-fiction hard copy books to the Birchwood High School Library.

Birchwood High School Graduation

On May 21, DJJ held Commencement Exercises at Birchwood High School for the largest graduating class on record. During the ceremony, nine (9) high school diplomas and 153 GEDS were awarded. The commencement speaker was Mr. John L. S. Simpkins, assistant professor of political science and associate director of the Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics, and Public Leadership at Furman University.

Laura Bush Foundation Grant

Only two South Carolina school libraries will receive a Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries grant and DJJ Birchwood High School is one of them. The \$5,000 grant will be used to purchase new books for the library.

Schedule

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| <i>May 26</i> | Juvenile Employment Enrichment Program Press Conference
State House Lobby |
| <i>May 27</i> | Program and Luncheon to Honor DJJ Juvenile Correctional Officers
Birchwood Chapel and Gymnasium, DJJ |
| <i>June 2</i> | DJJ/Clemson Steering Committee Meeting
Willow Lane Chapel, DJJ |