



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Training School Lease to be Signed

(Pierre) – A ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, March 25th at 2:15 p.m. (CST) at the Aurora County Courthouse in Plankinton for the signing of a lease agreement between the state of South Dakota and the Training School Campus Development Corporation over use of the former State Training School campus.

The training school was closed in 2001 because of fewer young people being sent to the Department of Corrections and the need to find efficiencies in the state budget. Last year, Governor Mike Rounds offered to lease the campus to a group from Plankinton for one dollar if they could find a use for it.

Under terms of the lease agreement, the state will lease the entire campus to the Development Corporation, who will then sublease the former Juvenile Prison building to Aurora County. The county will then enter into an agreement with Cornell Companies to manage a 40-bed juvenile detention center in the building.

The Development Corporation also plans to sublease with Cornell for a residential treatment center on the rest of the campus.

"The signing of this lease comes as a result of hundreds of hours of work, and is evidence of a true spirit of cooperation between the State of South Dakota, the Plankinton Community, and Cornell", said Corrections Secretary Tim Reisch. "I am hopeful that this will be the start of a long, mutually beneficial partnership, that results in the delivery of enhanced services for at-risk South Dakota youth."