



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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STAR Academy Superintendent retires

Pierre, S.D. – The state’s juvenile corrections programs will soon have a new leader guiding them.

Chuck Gilson, who has overseen the various programs at the State Treatment and Rehabilitation (STAR) Academy campus near Custer for nearly three years, retired December 21st.

“We are in the final stages in the selection of a new superintendent and hope to make an announcement in the near future,” said Doug Herrmann, Director of Juvenile Services for the Department of Corrections.

Jeff Haiar, STAR Academy Assistant Superintendent, is serving as the Interim Superintendent until a permanent replacement for Gilson is named.

Gilson served in the U.S. Navy for more than twenty years prior to going to work with the Department of Corrections in 1994 at the Custer Trusty Unit. After a promotion and a transfer to the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, Gilson returned to Custer and helped start winter community service projects at the unit in 1997, 1998 and 1999. Gilson was serving as Associate Warden at the Springfield facility prior to taking over at STAR Academy on an interim basis in January 2005. He was named Superintendent on a permanent basis in March 2005.

The STAR Academy is made up of several programs for youth, including the Admissions Unit, Youth Challenge Center and Patrick Henry Brady Academy for males, which are located south of Custer. Two programs for females, Quest and Excel, are located in Custer State Park.