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State Juvenile Corrections Programs Continue To Shine In PbS Project

Custer, S.D.- For an unprecedented third time, all of the state's juvenile corrections programs have reached the highest level status possible under a national project that measures conditions and treatment services provided to incarcerated youth.

All three of the reporting programs at the State Treatment and Rehabilitation (STAR) Academy near Custer obtained Level 4 status during the April 2013 data collection period for the Performance-based Standards (PbS) project. South Dakota became the first state to have all of its reporting programs achieve Level 4 status in April 2011 and repeated the feat in October 2012.

"Since 2009, we have had one or more of our STAR Academy programs maintain a Level 4 status in the PbS project," said Denny Kaemingk, Secretary of Corrections. "This is a tribute to the dedicated team utilizing evidence-based practices to provide the very best care possible for the youth entrusted to us."

"Having all three STAR Academy programs repeat the accomplishment of obtaining the highest level possible is quite remarkable," said Doug Herrmann, Director of Juvenile Services. "Through the commitment of Tonya Wright-Cook as our PbS coordinator, our other agency partners, dedicated staff and the leadership of STAR Superintendent Jeff Haiar and Director of Juvenile Community Services Kristi Bunkers, South Dakota leads the nation in juvenile corrections."

PbS is a program developed by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) for agencies and facilities to identify, monitor and improve conditions and treatment services provided to incarcerated youths using national standards and outcome measures.

Data is collected twice per year to measure safety, security, order, medical and mental health services, justice and legal rights, programming and reintegration planning.

STAR Academy has participated in the PbS project since 2001. Governor Dennis Daugaard signed an executive order in 2012 requiring the state juvenile corrections programs to continue participating in the project and to report annually to the Legislature on the progress of the project.

There are currently 156 facilities in the nation participating in the PbS project. Nineteen of those facilities reached Level 4 status for the last reporting period, with three of them being from South Dakota.

For more information on STAR Academy's participation in the PbS project or to view the most recent annual report, visit the Department of Corrections website at:

<http://doc.sd.gov/juvenile/pbsp.aspx>.

For more information on the PbS project, visit the CJCA website at:

<http://pbstandards.org/initiatives/performance-based-standards-pbs>.