



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Governor, Chief Justice honor Court Services, Parole and Juvenile Corrections Agents

Pierre, S.D. - The work of court service, parole, and juvenile community corrections employees is being recognized this week.

July 18th through July 24th 2004 is 'Court Services, Parole Agents and Juvenile Corrections Agents Week' in South Dakota as proclaimed by Governor Mike Rounds and South Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson.

In South Dakota, parole and juvenile community corrections are functions of the Department of Corrections (DOC) while probation falls under the supervision of the Unified Judicial System.

"Our juvenile corrections agents do the work that often goes unnoticed," said Kristi Bunkers, Director of Classification and Community Services for the DOC Juvenile Division. "Agents supervise offenders in the community, facilitate solutions to problems and assist these youth and their families in finding the help they need."

As of June 30, 2004 juvenile corrections agents were supervising more than 1-thousand youth on aftercare and there were more than 2-thousand people on parole and suspended sentence supervision in South Dakota.

"Parole agents play a critical part of the public safety system," said Ed Ligtenberg, Executive Director of the South Dakota Board of Pardons and Parole. "There are more than five million adults and people under community supervision in this country. The job is stressful and often unsafe, yet these people are dedicated to keep our communities safer."

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If you wish to do a story on a parole agent or juvenile corrections agent in your area, contact Michael Winder at (605) 773-3478. Addresses and phone numbers of parole and juvenile corrections agents offices are available on the DOC website at:

http://www.state.sd.us/corrections/juvenile_agents_offices.htm and
http://www.state.sd.us/corrections/parole_service_offices.htm.