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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 18, 2005
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New Superintendent named at STAR Academy

Pierre, S.D. –The new leader of the state's juvenile corrections programs is a familiar face to the staff at the State Treatment and Rehabilitation (STAR) Academy near Custer.

Chuck Gilson has been named Superintendent of the STAR Academy on a permanent basis after taking over as Interim Superintendent in January 2005.

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.

"I began my second career with the DOC in Custer at this very facility," said Gilson. "Over the years, I have had the opportunity to observe the changes that have occurred. I am very excited about my new role as Superintendent at STAR Academy and look forward to facing the challenges as we meet the goals and mission of this institution."

Prior to taking over at STAR Academy on an interim basis, Gilson was promoted to Associate Warden at the Springfield facility.

"Chuck brings excellent leadership, management, and correctional knowledge to the job," said Doug Herrmann, Director of Juvenile Services. "During his time as Interim Superintendent he developed a great working relationship with both the staff and the youth at the STAR Academy. We're very pleased to have him on board permanently."

"The Department of Corrections and state of South Dakota are very fortunate to find an administrator of Chuck's caliber," said Interim Secretary of Corrections Doug Weber. "We know he will do an outstanding job serving both the citizens of the state and the youth entrusted to our care. We're very happy to have him on board permanently."

The STAR Academy is made up of several programs for youth, including the Intake and Holding Center, The Living Center, Youth Challenge Center and Patrick Henry Brady Academy for males. Two programs for females, QUEST and ExCEL, are located in Custer State Park.

