



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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DOC staff member honored

Pierre, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Corrections (DOC) has honored a staff member who coordinated the state's participation in a project that improves services and living conditions in juvenile detention and corrections facilities.

Jodi Kirschenman, a Juvenile Justice Specialist based in Sioux Falls, received an outstanding achievement award for her work with the Performance-based Standards (*PbS*) project August 19th.

The award reads "For Outstanding Achievement and Leadership Presented to: Jodi Kirschenman who served with distinction as the State Coordinator for South Dakota Performance-based Standards from 2001-2005".

The Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) administers the *PbS* project. More than 150 facilities and programs in thirty states and the District of Columbia participate in the project, including the programs that make up the State Treatment and Rehabilitation (STAR) Academy near Custer.

"Jodi's assignment as South Dakota's state coordinator for the project quickly led her to be recognized nationally as the premier state coordinator for *PbS*", said Doug Herrmann, Director of Juvenile Services. "She provided the leadership and the technical knowledge for the juvenile division to be recognized as the model state in implementing *PbS*."

Kirschenman traveled to Alaska at the request of *PbS* officials to serve as the primary consultant for that state's implementation of the program. South Dakota is also providing technical assistance on the implementation of *PbS* to Arkansas, Hawaii, and South Carolina.

Bob Dugan, *PbS* Project Manager, sent a letter to Kirschenman commending her for her work in South Dakota and with other states. The letter reads, in part, "Your leadership has facilitated South Dakota to be viewed as one of the premiere *PbS* jurisdictions. Additionally, your understanding of the *PbS* improvement methodology has been of direct benefit to improvements within *PbS*. Your assistance with training new *PbS* jurisdictions, willingness to provide your expertise and explanations of the South Dakota *PbS* experience have been very helpful to other *PbS* sites."

The *PbS* project won the prestigious *2004 Innovations in American Government Awards* competition, a program of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. The CJCA's application for the award specifically cited South Dakota's involvement in the *PbS* project and the issuance of an executive order by Governor Mike Rounds in January 2003 requiring the state to participate in the project and report regularly on the results to the state legislature.

The South Dakota DOC was first accepted into the *PbS* project in April 2001 with four sites participating. In October 2002, South Dakota added the QUEST and ExCEL programs for girls to the *PbS* project. Since then, the DOC has incorporated reintegration standards and included the community-based juvenile corrections agents in the project.

The main goals of the *PbS* project are to:

- Develop a set of standards that individual facilities should strive to meet.
- Create tools to help facilities attain these goals through regular self-assessment and self-improvement.
- Allow facilities to evaluate their performance over time and in comparison to other facilities nationwide.
- Promote effective practices and help facilities support each other.

Twice each year, site coordinators at each program gather data, including:

- An Administrative report that assesses daily population and human resource data such as staff misconduct.
- File reviews of all juveniles who were released to aftercare during the month of data collection.
- Direct interview with 30 juveniles and 30 direct care staff from each facility. These individuals are randomly selected by CJCA from a list of all juveniles and direct care staff currently at each facility.
- Review of all incident reports that occur in all participating facilities during the month of data collection.
- Collection of Reintegration information provided by each juvenile's juvenile corrections agent.

The data collected is included in the annual report to the Governor and Legislature. This report provides a summary of each program and their performance as it relates to the outcome measures. It also shows the graph reports of each program's performance and how it compares to the other facility sites that participate in the project.

More information on the *PbS* program and the most recent report is available on the DOC website at: <http://www.state.sd.us/corrections/PbSProject.htm>.



Jodi Kirschenman (left) accepts her outstanding achievement award from DOC Secretary Tim Reisch.