



**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
ADMINISTRATION**

3200 East Highway 34
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3478
Fax: (605) 773-3194

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 5, 2006
CONTACT: Michael Winder, SD DOC (605) 773-3478

DOC staffer named to national standards board

Pierre, S.D. - A Department of Corrections (DOC) staff member has been named to a national board for the Performance based Standards (PbS) Learning Institute.

Tonya Wright-Cook, Quality Assurance Specialist at the State Treatment and Rehabilitation (STAR) Academy near Custer, is one of six representatives on the board.

"The board provides guidance to the PbS project on a national scale and will continue to play an instrumental role in providing leadership for the project well into the future," said Doug Herrmann, Director of Juvenile Services for the DOC. "Tonya's invitation to serve on the board is a reflection of her outstanding contribution to the PbS process and once again demonstrates that SD continues to be a leader in the field of juvenile corrections and PbS."

The PbS project was developed by the Council of Juvenile Corrections Administrators (CJCA) to ensure quality care in juvenile corrections facilities as it pertains to conditions of confinement and as it relates to reintegration standards for youth transitioning back to the community. The PbS project won the 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 South Dakota DOC was first accepted into the PbS project in April 2001, and all six programs at STAR Academy are now participating in the project. The DOC has also added reintegration standards from the project for community-based juvenile corrections agents.

Governor Mike Rounds issued an executive order in January 2003 requiring the state to participate in the project and report regularly on the results to the state legislature. The data collected is included in an annual report to the Governor and Legislature. For more information on PbS or to view the most recent report, see the DOC website at www.state.sd.us/corrections/PbSProject.htm.

###