



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 14, 2008
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Court Service Officers, Parole and Juvenile Corrections Agents honored

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

Governor Mike Rounds and South Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson have proclaimed July 13th through July 19th 2008 as 'Court Services, Parole Agents and Juvenile Corrections Agents Week' in South Dakota.

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.

As of June 30, 2008, there were more than 23-hundred people on parole and suspended sentence supervision in South Dakota and Juvenile Corrections Agents (JCA's) were supervising nearly 9-hundred youth in placement and on aftercare in South Dakota. Nationwide, there are more than five million adults and juveniles that are under various types of community supervision.

"Since virtually all offenders except those serving a life sentence are ultimately released from prison, one of the best ways to protect the public is in the effective transition of these offenders back into the community," said Ed Ligtenberg, Executive Director of the Board of Pardons and Paroles. "The knowledgeable, dedicated and professional parole staff members protect the public through practices designed to prevent future criminal behavior and hold the offenders accountable for responsible behavior. The staff seeks justice for the victim through facilitating input into the parole process and the collection of fines and restitution. The parole staff does an excellent job of balancing the three portions of the mission of the DOC - safety, security and supervision."

"JCA's play a significant role in the Juvenile Justice system," said Kristi Bunkers, Director of Classification and Community Services for the DOC Juvenile Division. "South Dakota has an amazing group of people serving as JCA's, who are dedicated to helping youth and families every day across the state."

Community supervision also saves significant tax dollars that can then be diverted to other needs of the state. It costs under 5-dollars per day to supervise someone on parole. The average cost per day to house someone in prison in South Dakota is approximately \$50.

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Additional information on parole is available at:

http://www.state.sd.us/corrections/parole_services.htm

Additional information on juvenile aftercare is available at:

http://www.state.sd.us/corrections/juvenile_aftercare.htm