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May 26, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Dakota first state to attain highest level in Performance-based Standards project

(Pierre)- South Dakota's juvenile corrections programs have established a new national standard for compliance with a project that measures conditions and treatment services provided to incarcerated youths.

All three of the reporting programs for the State Treatment and Rehabilitation (STAR) Academy near Custer have attained Level 4 status, the highest level possible, with the Performance-based Standards (PbS) project. South Dakota is the first state to have all of its facilities reach Level 4 status.

"STAR Academy's success in achieving this new standard is indicative of our staff's dedication to the PbS project and to constant improvement," said Secretary of Corrections Denny Kaemingk. "I am very proud of the quality correctional programs that we have in South Dakota. Quality programs come from hard working, quality people."

The PbS system was developed by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) to improve conditions of confinement, services and overall operations of juvenile facilities and programs and to provide technical assistance and tools that promote public safety, offender accountability and rehabilitation that prevents future crime.

Data is collected twice per year to measure safety, security, order, medical and mental health services, legal rights, programming and reintegration planning.

"PbS has played a major role in implementing change in our juvenile corrections system and in programs nationwide," said Doug Herrmann, Director of Juvenile Services. "South Dakota has been recognized as a model for other states as we've hosted several other states that have followed our blueprint for implementing PbS. It's extremely gratifying to be recognized as a national leader in this effort."

(more)

STAR Academy has participated in the PbS project since 2001. Governor Mike Rounds signed an executive order in 2003, requiring the state juvenile corrections programs to continue participating in the project and to report annually to the Legislature on the progress of the project. South Dakota is the only state that publicly releases its report.

There are currently 198 facilities in the nation participating in the PbS project. Twelve of the 198 facilities reached Level 4 status for the last reporting period, with a quarter of those facilities from South Dakota.

On April 27th, STAR Academy was awarded a Decade of Excellence plaque for their commitment to PbS and for their success with the program for the past ten years. This is the first recognition of this nature that the PbS project has ever awarded.

For more information on STAR Academy's participation in the PbS project or to view the most recent annual report, visit the Department of Corrections website at:
<http://doc.sd.gov/juvenile/pbsp.aspx>.

For more information on the PbS project, visit the CJCA website at:
<http://cjca.net/initiatives/performance-based-standards-pbs>.