



## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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State juvenile corrections programs shine in PbS project

(Custer, S.D.)- For the second time, all of the state's juvenile corrections programs have reached the highest level status possible under a national project that measures conditions and treatment services provided to incarcerated youth.

All three of the reporting programs at the State Treatment and Rehabilitation (STAR) Academy near Custer obtained Level 4 status during the October 2012 data collection period for the Performance-based Standards (PbS) project. In April 2011, South Dakota became the first state to have all of its reporting programs achieve Level 4 status.

"The STAR Academy team continues to work hard to provide the best treatment possible for those juveniles that the court has placed in our care, and it shows in retaining the highest marks in the PbS project," said Denny Kaemingk, Secretary of Corrections. "We use evidence based practices to continue to improve on the treatment provided to give the juveniles the tools that they need to be successful."

"Congratulations to all three programs and State PbS Coordinator Tonya Wright-Cook for their hard work and commitment to excellence which is unmatched in the national PbS project," said Doug Herrmann, Director of Juvenile Services for the Department of Corrections. "There are many partners who have contributed to each program's success and it represents a team effort to achieve the level 4 status a second time in the PbS project."

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.

STAR Academy has participated in the PbS project since 2001. Governor Dennis Daugaard signed an executive order in 2012 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 162 facilities in the nation participating in the PbS project. Twenty-three of those facilities reached Level 4 status for the last reporting period, with three of them being from South Dakota.

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>.