Ohio Department of Youth Services Recognizes Top Employees
Agency Celebrates Staff in Recognition of National Correctional Officers and Employees Week

Columbus, Ohio — The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) honored top employees at today’s Employee Recognition Ceremony at the DYS Training Academy in Orient. The event was held in conjunction with National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, which is the first week of May. Tanya Serrell, Youth Specialist at the Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility (CJCF) in Circleville, was named Youth Specialist of the Year. Eric Harter, Business Administrator at the Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility (IRJCF) in Massillon, was named Employee of the Year.

Tanya Serrell began working at DYS in 2001. Youth Specialists, previously known as Juvenile Correctional Officers, provide supervision in juvenile correctional facilities while also participating in activities and programs designed to educate and rehabilitate youth. “Ms. Serrell leads by example,” said Douglas Richard, CJCF Superintendent. “She positively affects her peers and youth, and we couldn’t ask for a better representative.”

Eric Harter has been a DYS employee since May 2000. “Mr. Harter has a clear purpose and passion,” said Chris Freeman, IRJCF Superintendent. “He loves his work,” he added.
DYS is the juvenile corrections system for the state of Ohio and is statutorily mandated to confine felony offenders, ages 10 to 21, who have been adjudicated and committed by one of Ohio's 88 county juvenile courts. DYS currently operates three juvenile correctional facilities, provides parole services from two regional sites and funds and supports 664 community programs serving more than 88,000 youth throughout the state.

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