December 2017
More Staff Urged to Consider Supervising Apprenticeships

December is a time of giving, and one of the best ways we can help the youth in our care is by investing in their preparation for adulthood. Our apprenticeship program does just that – it offers youth who are graduates the opportunity to earn while they learn a skilled trade and prepare for their futures.

Currently, DYS is approved through ApprenticeOhio, managed by the Department of Job and Family Services, to offer the following apprenticeships: Culinary/Cook, Landscape Management, Maintenance Repairer, Recovery Operator (recycling-related), and Janitor. Youth who complete these apprenticeships receive an industry-recognized credential, providing a smooth pathway to an in-demand career upon release.

Trudy McCullough is a Food Service Manager 2 at the Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility and has been an apprenticeship supervisor since the inception of the program. Her enthusiasm and dedication are evident. "This is a big honor for our youth because we teach them and give them this step, and when they go out, they can further their career," she said. "It’s really good for all of us. We relieve staff by giving them a helper, and we give youth an experience in a field that will always be hiring."
She went on to explain that the food service staff at the facility work as a team to provide apprenticeships for youth. They rely on delegation, organization, and structure to help several youth participate at any given time. “It keeps the youth busy and stops the fighting,” Trudy said. “It gives the staff joy to see the youth learn and accomplish.”

The apprenticeship program is in need of additional apprenticeship supervisors. Christine Kohler, the agency’s Apprenticeship Programs Administrator, explained: “Each apprentice must be matched with an apprenticeship supervisor who is knowledgeable and experienced in the craft. We are always looking for staff who voluntarily want to provide on-the-job training for youth.”

When asked about the paperwork involved, Christine explained: “The recordkeeping has been streamlined and is easy to do. I work one-on-one with staff to help acquaint them with the three forms that are required.”

Eligible youth include those who are graduates with enough time remaining on their sentences to complete half of the required training hours. If youth worked a related job prior to entering the apprenticeship program, they may qualify for credit toward the required hours. In addition, youth can continue apprenticeships in the community.

“We need to do a better job providing opportunities for our youth who are graduates,” said Director Harvey Reed. “Apprenticeships prepare youth for the workforce, help keep them busy, and instill responsibility. I encourage all staff interested in volunteering as an apprenticeship supervisor to reach out to Christine Kohler (614-752-7606) today.”