



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

AVERY D. NILES, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner

Jim Shuler
Office of Communications



DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

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Albany Scheduled for Next DJJ Citizens' Academy.. A Look Inside Georgia Juvenile Justice Reform

(Augusta - GA) The Department of Juvenile Justice is pleased to announce the latest public session of the **DJJ Citizens' Academy** is scheduled to convene in Albany, Georgia in mid-July 2016. Commissioner Avery D. Niles blueprinted DJJ's Citizens' Academy as an intensive five-week workshop opportunity for the public, providing an in-depth look into the on-site operations and functions of the Georgia juvenile justice system.

Commissioner Niles said support from Governor Nathan Deal and the Georgia General Assembly have helped bring about a multitude of meaningful system-wide changes that are already resulting in reduced numbers of young offenders in this state's secure juvenile facilities and has reduced recidivism rates in Georgia's juvenile justice populations.

"DJJ has a core belief in transparent government and we support the governor's vision for a safer and better-educated Georgia," Commissioner Niles said.

DJJ will launch the first Albany Citizens' Academy session on **Tuesday, July 19th, 2016**. Academy sessions will be scheduled at Georgia Regional Youth Detention Centers, Court Service Offices, and local courts around the City of Albany and Dougherty County.

The Citizens' Academy project helps provide transparency in government by allowing local citizens to observe Georgia's new juvenile reforms at work. ***"Our Albany Citizens' Academy will provide a select panel of observers with a 360-degree scope of enhanced juvenile corrections practices,"*** the Commissioner said.

The Academy Curriculum will cover topics from secure confinement and community supervision to vocational education opportunities and high school diplomas available at Georgia's dually accredited 181st School District. The Academy will commence in mid-July starting with an agency overview and introduction to DJJ executive leadership.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

“These academies give us an opportunity to provide local stakeholders with first-hand opportunities to see and experience DJJ's commitment to Georgia's young offenders and their families,” said Commissioner Niles.

Participants in the Albany Citizens' Academy will learn about Georgia's enhanced community reentry programs and DJJ's mission to promote safer communities for all Georgians by holding juvenile offenders accountable.

Due to on-site space restrictions, invitations to participate in the ***DJJ Citizens' Academy*** will be limited by the Commissioner's Office to a roster of twenty Albany-area citizens. An application process will determine consideration for admittance into each session, and Criminal History and Background Clearances must be approved by the Commissioner's Office prior to participation.

A statewide schedule for future Citizen Academy sessions is under development. **The Albany Academy is scheduled to run July 19th, 21st, and 26th, through August 2nd and 4th, 2016.**

Additional Academy schedules will be announced on DJJ's News & Views website at <http://www.djjnewsandviews.org/> or for additional information, please contact:

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(END RELEASE)

The Department of Juvenile Justice provides supervision, detention, and a wide range of treatment, educational and reentry services for youth referred by the Juvenile Courts. More than 50,000 youth are served each year by DJJ, including youth placed on probation, sentenced to short-term incarceration, or committed into custody by the Juvenile Courts.

In addition to the DJJ Central Office in Decatur, there are more than 100 DJJ court service offices and secure facility locations throughout Georgia.

For more information about special programs at the Department of Juvenile Justice, join us on the web at <http://www.djjnewsandviews.org/>.