



A MESSAGE FROM THE  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner  
Jim Shuler, Director  
Office of Communications



**DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**A Look Inside Georgia Juvenile Justice  
DJJ Citizens' Academy Comes to Augusta**

**(Augusta - GA)** The Department of Juvenile Justice is pleased to announce the latest session of Commissioner Avery D. Niles' **DJJ Citizens' Academy** is scheduled to convene in Augusta, Georgia in October. The DJJ Citizens' Academy is an intensive five-week workshop concept planned by the Commissioner to provide the public with an in-depth look into critical operations and administrative functions of the Georgia juvenile justice system.

The Citizens' Academy curriculum was developed to help educate concerned citizens, local leaders and community stakeholders about the innovative reforms emerging in state juvenile justice. Commissioner Niles said Governor Nathan Deal's support has helped bring about many meaningful changes that are already working to reduce the number of young offenders and their recidivism rates in juvenile justice populations.

The Citizens' Academy project also provides additional transparency in government by allowing citizens to observe the new Georgia juvenile reforms at work. "DJJ has a core belief in transparent government and we support the governor's vision for a safer and better-educated Georgia," the Commissioner said. "Our third Citizens' Academy will provide a select panel of Augusta members with a 360-degree scope of enhanced juvenile corrections practices."

DJJ will launch the Augusta **Citizens' Academy** on Thursday, October 22nd, 2015. Academy sessions will be scheduled at Georgia Youth Development Campuses, Regional Youth Detention Centers, Court Service Offices, and local courts around the City of Augusta and Richmond County.

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

"Our Augusta Citizens' Academy will provide local stakeholders with first-hand opportunities to see and experience DJJ's commitment to Georgia's young offenders and their families. They'll learn about our enhanced juvenile reentry programs and DJJ's non-negotiable mission to promote safer communities for all Georgians by holding juvenile offenders accountable," said Commissioner Niles.

Due to on-site space restrictions, invitations to participate in the third **DJJ Citizens' Academy** will be limited by the Commissioner's Office to a roster of twenty Augusta-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. The Academy will run through the third week of November 2015.

A statewide schedule for future Citizen Academy sessions is under development. Additional Academy schedules will be announced on DJJ's News & Views website at <http://www.djnewsandviews.org/> or **for additional information, please contact:**

**Latera Davis, Director**

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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.djnewsandviews.org/>.*

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