



A MESSAGE FROM THE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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DJJ Community Services Coordinator Receives National Honors
Georgia Juvenile Justice Recognized for Excellence in Probation and Parole

(ATLANTA - GA) Commissioner Avery D. Niles of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice is pleased to announce DJJ Community Services Program Coordinator, Dr. Dee Bell, is the recipient of the 2013 Walter Dunbar Award from the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA). Dr. Bell received this high honor at the APPA's Summer Training Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. Her achievements were officially recognized again this week before members of the DJJ Board at their regular meeting in Decatur.

The prestigious Walter Dunbar Memorial Award is presented by the association's international membership to recognize worthy individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of probation or parole through their work with the APPA. The award was named in honor of one of the association's most distinguished colleagues: Walter Dunbar is former Director of the California Department of Corrections, Chairman of the U.S. Parole Commission, and Director of the New York State Division of Probation.

DJJ's Dr. Dee Bell was selected for this honor due to her well-known work in community corrections and for raising awareness of restorative and community justice. Beginning with her work in the early years of the Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) initiative, Dr. Bell traveled extensively to promote and teach evidence-based practices. At the national level she is known as a long-time activist and dedicated professional. She has been recognized as a great facilitator whose people skills have helped link together a national network of community corrections experts.

For many years, Dr. Bell has made significant contributions to the American Probation and Parole Association and this is not the first time she has received national recognition for her efforts. In 2001, Dr. Bell was honored with the APPA Member of the Year Award for her continuous dedication and volunteer spirit.

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Dr. Bell has been an APPA member since 1993. She has served on the Board of Directors as chair of the Prevention Committee, the Community Justice Committee, and the Leadership Institute Committee. She has chaired the Program Committee and served as a Track Coordinator on many occasions. She currently serves on the following six APPA committees for Community Justice and Prevention, Gender Issues, Juvenile Justice, Leadership Institute, Nominations, and Victim Issues.

Educated at Clemson University in South Carolina and Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Bell received her B.S. degree from Clemson University in 1975 and followed with her M.A. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology both from Emory University. Her APPA involvement began in 1991 when the Georgia Department of Corrections hosted the Annual Institute in Atlanta, Georgia for the first time. She has provided training in state and national venues and authored and co-authored several articles on both justice system and juvenile justice system issues.

By taking the initiative, active professionals like Dr. Dee Bell, have helped develop a unified voice in the field of community corrections for probation and parole practitioners in both the adult and juvenile sectors. The Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice congratulates her for this professional recognition and for her dedication to her work at DJJ!

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