



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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**DJJ Citizens' Academy Comes to Macon  
A Transparent Look at Juvenile Justice in Georgia**

**(Macon - GA)** Department of Juvenile Justice Commissioner Avery D. Niles is pleased to announce the upcoming second session of the **DJJ Citizens' Academy** scheduled for Macon, Georgia. The Citizens' Academy is an intensive five-week workshop providing an in-depth look into the operational and administrative functions of DJJ.

The Academy curriculum was developed to help educate concerned citizens and community stakeholders about innovative reforms in Georgia juvenile justice. Commissioner Niles said Governor Nathan Deal's support has helped bring about meaningful changes that are already working to reduce youthful offender populations and recidivism rates in the juvenile justice system.

The Commissioner said the Citizens' Academy project provides additional transparency in government by allowing local citizens to observe new 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 second Citizens' Academy will provide a select panel of members in Macon with a 360-degree scope of enhanced juvenile corrections practices."

The second **DJJ Citizens' Academy** will begin April 16, 2015. The academy sessions will be scheduled at Youth Development Campuses, Court Service Offices, and local courts around the City of Macon and Bibb County.

The course will commence with an agency overview and introduction to DJJ executive leadership. The curriculum will cover topics from secure confinement and community supervision to high school diplomas and GED's at Georgia's 181st School District.

"Our second Citizens' Academy will provide an opportunity to see and experience DJJ's commitment to young offenders and their families, to enhanced juvenile reentry programs, and to DJJ's non-negotiable mission to promote safer communities for all Georgians by holding juvenile offenders accountable," said Commissioner Niles.

**( MORE MORE MORE)**

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Space will be restricted for the second **DJJ Citizens' Academy**, so invitations will be limited by the Commissioner's Office to a roster of twenty Macon area citizens to participate in the Academy. An application process will determine consideration for admittance into each session and Criminal History and Background Clearances must be obtained prior to participation.

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.djjnewsandviews.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 office and 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/>*

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