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## **Ferris School Named Finalist in National Juvenile Justice Award Program**

*School staff reaffirms commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of young people.*

Wilmington, DE – The Ferris School of the Delaware Children’s Department’s Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services was recently honored as a Barbara Allen-Hagen Award finalist from Performance-based Standards (PbS). The award is given to correction, detention/assessment and community programs that best exemplify PbS’ commitment to providing effective and developmentally appropriate care for youths placed in residential facilities and implementing strategic plans to change practices that result in positive outcomes for youths, staff and families.

“This prestigious recognition further confirms what we at the Children’s Department have always known. That our dedicated staff and providers work diligently every day to provide a safe, structured environment where young people are nurtured, valued and taught important life skills which will put them on the path to success,” said Carla Benson-Green, Cabinet Secretary of the Children’s Department. “I’d like to thank YRS Director Nancy Dietz, YRS Deputy Director Jack McDonough, Ferris School Superintendent Tanya Banks and all Ferris staff for their hard work.”

Formed in 1995 by the US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), PbS is a data-driven improvement model that has established national standards to guide operations and uniform performance outcome measures to continuously, accurately and comprehensively monitor daily practices and cultures in youth facilities.

“Our goal is to change lives for the better. When juveniles come into our care they are oftentimes angry, confused, frightened, and display harmful behaviors. This is where our work begins,” said Nancy Dietz, Director of the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services (YRS). “We do our best to engage the youth, properly guide them, and transform detrimental attitudes and behaviors.”

YRS Director Dietz and Superintendent Banks attended an awards ceremony this past August in Boston to receive the award on behalf of the Children’s Department.

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*The Children’s Department provides services to children who have been abused, neglected, are dependent, have mental health or substance problems, and/or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts as well as prevention services targeted toward all youth. For more information, please visit [www.kids.delaware.gov](http://www.kids.delaware.gov).*