



For immediate release  
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Dawn K. Thompson:  
(302) 633-2501

**Secretary Benson-Green announces DSCYF 2015 Employee of the Year:  
Mr. Marquis Swift**

Dover, DE – Marquis has been employed with the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services for nine years. He worked as a Treatment Specialist at both Snowden Cottage and Ferris School. Marquis was promoted to the position of Treatment Specialist Supervisor in February 2014 and has proven himself to be an exemplary leader, a respected colleague, and dedicated staff member.

Marquis has always been conscientious about taking the necessary time to see that the new treatment specialist under his charge are thoroughly trained in all aspects of their job responsibilities. He makes every effort to assist new staff in acclimating to how the housing unit operates and serves as an excellent role model for both subordinate staff and fellow supervisors. Throughout his tenure at DSCYF, Marquis has been known for his mature leadership and has been able to take control of numerous potentially negative situations by providing calm leadership and thoughtful direction.

Always in the teaching mode, Marquis regularly offers helpful feedback and advice to his subordinate staff. The evenhanded, firm, and consistent manner in which he works with our residents is of great benefit to the young men and contributes to the stability of the housing unit. When counseling residents you will often hear him ask “is your behavior today moving you forward in the program or backwards?” This gives our residents an opportunity to reflect upon their personal progress and commitment to changing any detrimental attitudes, actions, and beliefs. Marquis consistently sets a positive example by how he offers feedback to those residents who are displaying challenging acting out behaviors. He uses verbal de-escalation techniques to gain control of the situation while teaching the residents appropriate coping skills. When Ferris School implemented its Yoga Program, Marquis served as the lead staff in this effort by not only assisting the yoga instructor during classes, but also enrolling in courses leading to his certification as a yoga instructor.

Marquis serves on the Division’s CBT Monitoring Committee, Ferris School’s CBT Committee, and the South Cluster Family Engagement Committee. He also coached the Ferris School Football and Weight Lifting Teams, was a facilitator for the Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Program, and is a staff advisor to the Ferris School’s Falcon Club. Marquis is very much a key player within our organization and is an asset when it comes to maintaining and improving the quality of service provided by Ferris School. When it comes to his commitment to his job, we can truly say Marquis has displayed steadfast dedication to the Ferris School, subordinate staff, peer supervisors, and the Department as a whole.

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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).*