



For Immediate Release
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Ferris School for Boys Hosts Event to Recognize Valued Mentors and Volunteers

DuPont's HOSTS Mentoring Program acknowledged for 10 year partnership

WILMINGTON—Ferris School for Boys hosted a special event today to thank the numerous mentors and volunteers who have given their time and insight to some of the state's most troubled youth. Special acknowledgment was given to mentors from the DuPont Corporation for their commitment to the HOSTS (Helping One Student To Succeed) mentoring program, which has been involved with Ferris for over 10 years.

“This program has been such a great success thanks to the people who have volunteered their time to work with our children,” explained Elizabeth Siftar, mentor coordinator at Ferris. “It is hard to imagine the circumstances our students have found themselves in, but it is very rewarding to know that we have an opportunity to help them turn their lives around. Our mentors and volunteers give our kids strength and hope – two invaluable characteristics.”

Several other mentors and volunteers from both private companies and community agencies were in attendance for today's event, including: Croda, Agilent, the Delaware Mentoring Council, Business Mentoring Partnership and several local churches.

“One of the greatest gifts we can give children is our time,” Cabinet Secretary Cari DeSantis said. “Spending time with youth – listening to their stories and offering our guidance – can make a lasting impact on their self-esteem and sense of hope for the future. The Children's Department is extremely grateful to the myriad of volunteers and mentors who have joined in our vision to *Think of the Child First.*”

The Ferris School for Boys is a state-of-the-art juvenile secure care facility for 80 adjudicated delinquent males who are committed by Family or Superior Court. It was designed to provide improved programs and services to create a total learning environment for youth. The current facility opened in 1997.

On any given day, the Delaware Children's Department provides services to approximately 9,000 children who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, dependent, or have mental health or substance abuse problems, and/or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts. Over 22,000 unduplicated children receive services each year through the Delaware Children's Department. Thousands more Delaware children received services from the Department through home-, community-, or school-based prevention and early intervention programs, and child care licensing.

For more information, please visit www.kids.delaware.gov.

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