



*The Department of Services  
For Children, Youth and  
Their Families*

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# NEWS

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State of Delaware  
Office of the Governor

For Immediate Release:  
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**Governor Ruth Ann Minner Presents United  
Electric, State Children's Dept. with  
Delaware Quality Award**

*New Castle* – Governor Ruth Ann Minner presented the Delaware Quality Award for management excellence to United Electric Supply, Inc. of New Castle and the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families (Children's Department) today.

The Delaware Quality Award, presented in honor of entrepreneur W.L. (Bill) Gore, was established in 1992 by the Delaware Quality Consortium, a public/private partnership. Based on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award criteria, the Delaware Quality Award honors companies that excel in the following areas: customer satisfaction; valuing people; supplier partnering; community impact; leadership; process management; and results.

The Quality Award is divided into three categories: the Gore Award, the Merit Award and the Commitment Award. The Gore Award is the highest honor and the Merit Award recognizes companies and organizations that are a step away from becoming Gore Awardees. 2002 marks the first year the Delaware Quality Consortium has offered the Commitment Award, acknowledging those who are off to a good start toward obtaining the Gore Award.

United Electric Supply was awarded the 2002 Gore Award. United Electric also received the Gore Award in 1995 and 1998. The Delaware Children's Department is the first recipient of the Commitment Award and the third state agency to receive a Delaware Quality Award since the awards inception.

Gov. Minner said, "The Delaware Quality Award is presented to companies and organizations that have made customer service and management excellence their highest priorities. I am honored to recognize United Electric Supply, a company that has proved year after year to be a business that puts the customer first.

"I am also personally proud of the reforms and improvements in the quality of care that are evident in the Delaware Children's Department receiving the Commitment Award today," Minner

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added. "The number one priority of this administration is providing a strong future for our children, and I congratulate the Children's Department for this well-respected recognition of their efforts."

QUOTE CARNEY

QUOTE UNITED ELECTRIC

"We, the nearly 1,200 employees of the Delaware Children's Department, are honored to be the first organization selected for the Delaware Quality Commitment Award. Our dedication to quality service reflects our individual and collective commitments to improving the lives of the over 13,000 children who enter our care each year," said Cari DeSantis, Secretary of the Delaware Children's Department. "Our ongoing focus on quality improvements in management and service translates directly into improved care for our children and further supports our departmental philosophy to always 'Think of the Child First.' "

The Delaware Quality Award recipients will be honored again at the annual Delaware Quality Banquet, to be held on Thursday, February 7, 2002 at the Hotel DuPont.



March 22, 2002

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## **New Director to Shape Rehabilitative Services for 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Wilmington DE – The Secretary of the Delaware Children’s Department, Cari DeSantis has appointed Frank J. Larry as Director of Youth Rehabilitative Services. “Frank brings leadership, management, and problem-solving skills to support the transformation of our juvenile justice services to better meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century teens,” said Secretary DeSantis. “He has both national perspective and a passion for keeping kids on the path to successful adulthood.”

Secretary DeSantis noted that Delaware is a leader in juvenile justice institutional services. The Ferris School for Boys is cited as a national model. The School, as well as both detention facilities, have been repeatedly accredited after the State supported the Department’s redesign of institutional services. “We’re looking to achieve the same kind of excellence in community-based juvenile justice services. This will benefit kids who have not yet needed to be institutionalized for their crimes, as well as kids leaving our facilities,” she stated. “Frank Larry brings experience, perspective and commitment to making all of Youth Rehabilitative Services position kids for success while preserving public safety.”

Director Larry admits the Division he now heads has a full agenda, “We’re looking at serving youth in residential services closer to home, restructuring community-based services, and managing the increased populations in our detention centers, including opening the newly expanding Stevenson House in November.”

In 1991, Frank Larry joined the US Sentencing Commission, where he has served as the Deputy Director for the Office of Education and Sentencing Practice since 1998. Prior to that, he served as a U.S. Probation Officer in Wilmington (1977-91). A member of the American Correctional Association and the American Society for Training and Development, he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal justice (earned at the University of Delaware after graduating from Newark High School). In the early 1990s, he helped organize the First State Force, a 13-member band comprised of law enforcement officers from throughout Delaware. Larry played guitar and served as music director for the band, which performed anti-drug concerts for children in schools. For this, he earned recognition from the United States Attorney General.

“We in the Delaware Children’s Department challenge ourselves each day to Think of the Child First in all we do,” said Secretary DeSantis. “We believe that all children need safety, stability, self-esteem and a sense of hope in order to succeed. We’re committed to transforming our system of children’s services to meet 21<sup>st</sup> Century needs. Frank Larry shares our vision and sees the opportunity to champion the changes in Youth Rehabilitative Services.”

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May 30, 2002

Contact: Trish Hearn  
302/633-2500

## **New Director for Youth Rehabilitative Services**

Wilmington, DE - The Secretary of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, Secretary Cari DeSantis today shared with department staff that Frank J. Larry, Jr. has resigned as Director of the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services for health reasons. Deputy Director Nancy Pearsall has been appointed Director. Both announcements are effective immediately.

“I wish to thank Frank for his willingness to help the children of Delaware and wish him the best of health in the near future,” said Secretary DeSantis. “We are fortunate to have within the Department, a great talent who can readily step into the Director's position. Nancy's creativity and inclusiveness in problem solving has already been exhibited in spearheading the re-engineering of Community Services. Her direct style of leadership is welcome.”

Nancy D. Pearsall has over 21 years experience in State government, with more than 8 of those years with the Children's Department. Nancy has been with YRS since April 1999 serving as Deputy Director. Her prior service in the Department includes such leadership positions as Deputy Director of the Division of Family Services, and originator of the widely acclaimed K-3 Early Intervention Program. Nancy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morgan State University in Political Science and a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from West Chester State University. Nancy and husband Benjamin Pearsall live with their daughter in Bear, Delaware.

The Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services operates Ferris School, the State's reform school for boys, New Castle County Detention Center, Stevenson House and Community Service programs, which include probation and after-care services for over 2,900 youths. It is supported by a budget of \$37.8 million and 375 employees.

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October 3, 2002

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## **JUVENILE DETENTION STUDENTS WIN TOP HONORS IN CITY'S GARDEN CONTEST**

Contest helped students to learn team building and job skills

Wilmington, DE – About 20 students from the state's juvenile justice facilities won top honors in the 2002 Wilmington City Garden Contest. The students, ages 13 through 18, designed, planted, and maintained gardens near the buildings in which they reside, the New Castle County Detention Center and the Mowlds Cottage. The facilities house, respectively, youth awaiting Court hearings or placement, or youth who have completed treatment at the Ferris School for Boys and are transitioning back to the community. The NCCDC team won First Place in the Youth Community Garden Category. The Mowlds students won second place in the Adult Flower Garden Category.

"It's essential for these young men to learn about responsibility and team building. Now, they have additional reason to be proud of what they accomplished," said Director of Youth Rehabilitative Services Nancy Pearsall. "Richard Taylor, a NCCDC cook, sauteed the first batch of fresh vegetables for the students, who enjoyed eating the food they themselves had grown. Earning First Place in the contest is really special for them."

"The volunteer judges who visited NCCDC and Mowlds Cottage were overwhelmed by the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment that are so evident in these gardens. These were projects that showed that teachers, administrators, and especially students really care about their work, and want to make a positive difference," said Ethan Cramer, City Gardens Contest Coordinator, Delaware Center for Horticulture. "It's worth noting that Mowlds garden was so impressive that it was judged in an adult rather than youth gardens category."

"These projects teach the students skills as well as values that we think will help them to succeed in the community," said Secretary Cari DeSantis. "The staff and the Center for Horticulture should also be recognized for an outstanding job supporting the students in such worthwhile opportunities."

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## **NCCDC Garden**

Students from NCCDC, where youth await adjudication or placement after arrest, placed first place in the Community Youth Garden category. This garden project was initially funded through a competitive grant from the Delaware Center for Horticulture, which covered two raised planter beds, the potting soil, all of the plants and vegetables. Next year, the project will be expanded to include several additional raised planting beds. The original concept was to eventually take over the entire area and eliminate the grass.

In addition to raising flowers, vegetables, and other plants from seed, selected students are learning how to maintain a planted area. They water and weed and remove unwanted young growth from the established bushes.

“What began as a very modest effort to diversify our curriculum has borne fruit in more ways than we imagined. Protected pests, pesticides, predators, the birds and the bees were attracted by the blooming flowers. The vegetables made their way into recipes in the kitchen, and the harvested seeds should keep us growing from year to year,” said Dr. Ken Getschow, NCCDC School Administrator.

The award for NCCDC noted, “Beautiful flower and vegetable beds; well tended, and promising much therapeutic good for the residents; great visual display from all windows of the building; and an inspiring story. Garden has really nice visual impact from all windows of the building. Good enthusiasm of gardeners. Also, good use of raised beds --we're glad that you're using produce in meals.”

## **MOWLDS CONTEST**

Students from Mowlds Cottage, a step-down facility from the Ferris School, which is a Level V maximum-security facility for juveniles the State of Delaware, won second place in the Community Flower category. This program was designed to help Mowlds students learn a job skill and better prepare for the workforce. The goal of the program was to provide basic skills that will lead to employment. Last year, the students of Mowlds Cottage participated and won first prize in the Community Youth Garden category. This program was such a success that they entered again this year. The students did such an excellent job with their garden that they were judged against adult gardens in the Community Flower Garden category.

“The benefits of these events have been very positive. It allows our students the opportunity to develop their entrepreneur skills,” said Ray Brown, Work Coordinator at Mowlds Cottage.

In addition to this project, every year Mowlds students sponsor a spring and Christmas flower sale.

The award for Mowlds noted, “The students selected a great choice of diverse plants, which provided an attractive entrance way. The immediate visual impact of the garden is very positive. Nice mixture of annuals and perennials and great use of mulch to conserve water.”