

Juvenile Detention Center Staff Nationally Recognized

The Mississippi County Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Charleston has been recognized by the National Partnership for Juvenile Services as one of the outstanding juvenile detention centers in the nation by virtue of their bestowing their annual Bob Rader Detention Awards to two employees of this local facility.

Kevin Hess, Detention Superintendent, and Linda Moore, Shift Supervisor, were both recipients of these prestigious awards in different categories. Only fourteen individuals in the United States were recognized for their accomplishments in the field of juvenile detention in each category.

Linda Moore received the Bob Rader Detention Services Worker Award. This award is given to a detention worker for their overall performance and achievements in the direct supervision of juveniles during day-to-day operations of a juvenile detention center. She received this honor by virtue of her tireless efforts to provide for the safety and security of the juveniles in the center, as well as her exceptional supervisory job performance.

Kevin Hess received the Bob Rader Line Staff Award for his innovative efforts in moving the operational concept of the detention facility from basic incarceration services to a wide-ranging myriad of services including, cognitive and life skills programming, enhanced educational opportunities, and addressing the juveniles' mental/emotional health needs in order to better prepare them for becoming successful students and citizens in the community.

Mr. Hess says "It is a great feeling to be recognized by a national organization, but it would be impossible to be given this recognition without the support and actual job performance of all of the people working in our detention center. They are the ones that do the 'hands on' work with the youth in our facility and had to adapt to this new concept of integrated service delivery. They provide the services and interaction directly with the juveniles. Our staff is great, and I proudly share this award with them."

The National Partnership for Juvenile Services was created in 2004 when four closely related organizations merged into one agency. The Council for Educators of At-Risk Youth (CEARDY), the Juvenile Justice Trainers Association (JJTA), the National Association for Juvenile Corrections Agencies (NAJCA), and the National Juvenile Detention Association were the original organizations that merged into the NPJS.

The NPJS advocates for the highest standards in care, management and programming for detained youth, strengthening training and professional development opportunities for practitioners, and leading juvenile justice systemic reform efforts.