



Department of  
Youth Services

## Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed Employees Take Center Stage at Recognition Ceremony

June 6, 2014

The accomplishments of our employees took center stage at yesterday's Employee Recognition Ceremony where we paid tribute to a total of 88 staff members named "Employee of the Month" and "Employee of the Year" during 2013.

Melissa McDay, a Youth Specialist at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility (ChJCF) was named DYS Youth Specialist of the Year, and Dorothy "Dee" Pendlebury, a Juvenile Parole Officer in the Akron Regional Office, was named DYS Employee of the Year.

Ms. McDay began working at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility (IRJCF) in 2008 and transferred to ChJCF in 2009. "Her greatest value comes from the fact that she is committed to teaching our youth and encouraging them to improve their lives," said Katie Needham, ChJCF Superintendent. "She has proven time and time again that she truly cares about our youth and is committed to ensuring that they will be successful."

Ms. Pendlebury began at Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility in 1992 and later worked at IRJCF. She joined the Akron Regional Office in 2004. "Her quality of work is second to none. She maintains accurate records and pays attention to details. She gives unselfishly of herself," said Joe Marsilio, Regional Administrator. "She searches the community for alternative solutions and has countless resources to assist youth. Ms. Pendlebury has displayed a willingness to work with community agencies and represents DYS on Family Children First Councils in Ashland, Medina, Richland, and Wayne Counties. Ms. Pendlebury is highly respected by court officials."



*Left: Dee Pendlebury, DYS Employee of the Year for 2013  
Right: Melissa McDay, DYS Youth Specialist of the Year for 2013*

The June 5 ceremony elevated the importance of recognizing staff for their contributions to DYS and thanking them for their service. Special thanks to the Employee Recognition Committee for pulling together the statewide celebration. Also, I would like to thank all of the contributing staff and the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA) for financial support for the event.



Above: Site Employees of the Year, Site Youth Specialists of the Year, DYS Employee of the Year, DYS Youth Specialist of the Year, Site Leadership, Union Leadership, Director Reed, and Assistant Director Janes

Please join me in congratulating Melissa McDay, Dee Pendlebury, and all of the honorees!

**2013 Site Employees of the Year and Youth Specialists of the Year**

Denise Conrad	Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility (CJCF) Employee of the Year
Markus Patterson	CJCF Youth Specialist of the Year
Denise Gooch	ChJCF Employee of the Year
Melissa McDay	ChJCF Youth Specialist of the Year
Ryan Heimberger	IRJCF Employee of the Year
Yolonda Frierson	Former Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (SJCF) Employee of the Year
Dee Pendlebury	Akron Region Employee of the Year
David Tobin	Columbus Region Employee of the Year
Maria Kawentel	Cleveland Region Employee of the Year
Victoria Cosby	Dayton Region Employee of the Year
Nawoka Ashford	Toledo Region Employee of the Year

**2013 Youth Specialists of the Month at CJCF**

Markus Patterson, Scott Whisman, Ray Gillian, Mary Russell, Adam Davis, Ryan Miller, Dustin Conrad, Frank Lodi, and Thomas Richardson

**2013 Employees of the Month at CJCF**

Donna Randolph, Denise Conrad, Walter Shives, BJ Gaspers (retired), Henry Roach (retired), Virginia Robertson, Gary Riley, Cornelius Lawrence, Deborah Johnson, and Kathy Howard

**2013 Youth Specialists of the Month at ChJCF**

Lamar Wilson, Melissa McDay, Heather Horner, Alphonso Anderson (retired), Alexander McAfee, Joseph Milliken, Dante Gray, Darrin Gates, Erik Roncone, Deborah Hoppert, Geno Hart, and Deanna Clark

**2013 Employees of the Month at ChJCF**

Ramona Gayheart, Daniel Hanstein, Angelina Wurgler, Bryan Forrest, Stephanie Rippy, Denise Gooch, Michael Harper, Leachuin Dean, Rosemary Crone, Antonio Bolden (retired), Rowena Gilmore-Vargas, and Regina Shepherd

**2013 Youth Specialists of the Month at IRJCF**

Fred Mann, Millard Thomas, Tia Brooks, Benny Wilmoth, Brian Jeter, Rebecca Jones, William Carter, Theresa Tanner, Montoyia Weir, Bruce Thompson, Brett Bird, and Tinika Davenport

**2013 Employees of the Month at IRJCF**

Cathleen Amburgey, Ryan Heimberger, Dianna Gardner, Loranza Payton, Ellen Steely, Shirley Heater, Demarlo Rozier, Celeste Gallagher, Randy Blake, William Benjamin, Stephanie Groff, and Bobbi Leasure

**2013 Youth Specialists/Employees of the Month at the Former SJCF**

Justin McGrath (now at IRJCF), Herman Walker (now at CJCF), and Yolonda Frierson (now at CJCF)

**2013 Akron Region Employee of the Month**

Dee Pendlebury

**2013 Columbus Region Employee of the Month**

David Tobin and Regina Lurry

**2013 Cleveland Region Employee of the Month**

Jewel Jones and Maria Kawentel

**2013 Dayton Region Employee of the Month**

Larry Kennie and Victoria Cosby

**2013 Toledo Region Employee of the Month**

Nathan Lawson, Sharon Davis, Davin Berrier, Michelle Papson, Art Eli, Debra Parker, Suzette Gilchrist, Lisa Straziouso (previously worked for DYS), Donna Neely, Debra Kascmarek, Nawoka Ashford, and Bryan Weimerskirch