



Press Release

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Office of Media & Public Relations
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Eastman Youth Development Campus to Hold Graduation

Eastman, Georgia – Seven students at the Eastman Youth Development Campus (YDC) will receive their high school diplomas, 14 will receive their graduate equivalency degrees (GEDs), and five students will receive technical certificates from Heart of Georgia Technical College at a graduation ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, July 30, 2010 at the facility.

The Eastman graduation will be the final graduation of the 2009-2010 school year. So far this school year, DJJ youth have earned 43 high school diplomas and 84 GEDs. Thirty-two youths have completed the course requirements for a technical certificate of credit. This is the second graduation at the Eastman YDC this year. DJJ has also held graduations at the Sumter, Macon and Augusta YDCs, and the Bob Richards Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC) in Rome.

Shirley Banks, assistant district attorney in Laurens County, will be the commencement speaker.

“This school year has seen a record number of DJJ youth receive a high school diploma,” said Juvenile Justice Commissioner Garland R. Hunt Esq. “While holding youth accountable for their delinquent behavior, DJJ is firmly committed to providing these youth with skills that will provide opportunities for them once they return to our communities.”

The Eastman YDC, which has 330 beds, primarily houses youth between the ages of 17 and 20.

Eastman YDC has full educational services and is staffed with certified teachers who provide youth with the opportunity to earn their high school or GED diploma. An agreement with the Heart of Georgia Technical College provides a variety of vocational classes. College credits can be earned in auto mechanics, body repair, wood working, horticulture, and computer technology. These credits can transfer to local colleges.

DJJ is Georgia’s 181st school district and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

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