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**DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

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**Macon YDC Holds Graduation**

June 3, 2010

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**Macon, Georgia-** Five students at the Macon Youth Development Campus (YDC) received a high school diploma or General Equivalency Degree (GED) during a ceremony on Thursday, June 03, 2010.

The Macon YDC is the only long-term juvenile facility in the state for females.

Cheryl Banks, with the Dublin Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office, delivered the commencement address. Banks is a Senior Assistant District Attorney in the office. She told the graduates that her slogan of "dream it, believe it, and achieve it," applies to them. Banks said, "With your diploma in your hand, the world is at your feet, you can dream."

Macon YDC School Principal Jerry Jones had a message for both the students and family members at the graduation. He said, "We can't give up on them. If we believe in them, they will believe in themselves, eventually."

The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice is Georgia's 181st school district and has accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. All DJJ teachers are certified. Students in short-term RYDCs and long-term YDCs both receive 330 minutes of instruction each day year round. Students in DJJ schools can achieve a GED, high school diploma or special education diploma. All academic and vocational credits awarded are transferable with the youth upon their return to the community.

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