

L. Gale Buckner, Commissioner

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(Photos Available)

ELEVEN YOUTH GRADUATE AT MACON YDC
– Seven Receive High School Diplomas, Four Receive GEDS –

(Macon, Ga.) --- Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice Commissioner L. Gale Buckner today announced that eleven youth graduated from the Macon Youth Development Campus (YDC), and another 15 youth received technical college certificates of credit or Work Ready certificates at a commencement ceremony before several dozen assembled guests including DJJ executive staff, educators and family members.

“These graduates worked hard for their achievements,” Commissioner Buckner said. “I encourage them to build on their success so that when they leave DJJ they continue to see there are opportunities available to them.”

One youth addressed the graduating class.

“We have realized that education can open doors to opportunities, and we must now show others what we have learned,” said the youth, who is unidentified because juvenile records are sealed.

Retired DJJ employee Natilyn Young served as the commencement speaker. She urged graduates to follow their dreams and not place limits on their goals.

“You need to learn to determine your own beliefs about who you are and what you can accomplish,” Young said.

DJJ is the state’s 181st school district and has dual accreditation from both the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the Correctional Education Association (CEA). Last academic year, 51 youth graduated from DJJ high schools and 125 students earned GEDs.

In December, 102 youth received high school diplomas, General Equivalency Degrees (GED), and vocational certificates at DJJ facilities around the state.

DJJ’s mission is to protect and serve the citizens of Georgia by holding young offenders accountable for their actions through the delivery of services and sanctions in appropriate settings and by supporting youth in their communities to become productive and law-abiding citizens. Each day, at 26 facilities and 92 court services offices throughout the state, more than 4,000 DJJ employees work diligently to effect justice as well as redirect and shape the young lives in the agency’s care so they can become contributing members of society. At the same time, DJJ seeks to protect the victims of crimes so that they can rebuild their lives.

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