



DJJ welcomes a new class of Juvenile Counselors, Special Officers and Congregate Care Specialists at August 15th ceremony.

Reverend Alfonso Wyatt Keynotes at DJJ Staff Graduation Ceremony

On Friday, August 15, 2008 the Department of Juvenile Justice welcomed into their ranks twenty-five new Juvenile Counselors, six Special Officers along with two Congregate Care Specialists, all of whom graduated from the Department's Staff Education and Training Academy at a ceremony at the Department's 110 William Street headquarters.

Deputy Director of Training Lorraine Anderson opened the event by stating, "I am pleased to be here to celebrate the graduation of this class of Juvenile Counselors, Special Officers and Congregate Care Specialists of 2008," and welcomed the new employees, who were joined by family, friends and DJJ colleagues.

After introductory remarks by the Director of the Staff Education and Training Academy (SETA) Torry Moorer, Reverend Alfonso Wyatt presented the keynote address. Reverend Wyatt is known to many New Yorkers for his service as Vice President of the Fund for the City of New York. Alfonso Wyatt joined the Fund for the City of New York to continue three decades of service to youth and the community. He has trained, and mentored three generations of dynamic youth workers and leaders on techniques to effectively teach, reach, and nurture young people.

Reverend Wyatt delivered an inspiring welcome to the new class of juvenile justice professionals, stressing the important role they will play in the lives of young people in detention. He also noted the fact that DJJ provides opportunities for youth to turn their life around by offering innovative programs tailored to keep them out of detention.

Also on hand to receive an award for her exceptional contraband search during a training exercise at the Horizon Center was graduate Madelyn Lopez-Farrow.

SETA Director Torry Moorer remarked to members of the graduation, "Despite your own challenges and reservations, you, too, can exact a change in the lives of youth placed in the care of DJJ through the power of you. Everyone has the ability to affect, in a positive way, the life of a young person".

The graduates will immediately join their colleagues, working throughout DJJ's secure facilities and group homes, where they will provide direct care and security for youth in detention, enhancing the overall quality of childcare.

