



DJJ welcomes a new class of Juvenile Counselors and Congregate Care Specialists.

DJJ Holds Graduation Ceremony for New Juvenile Counselors and Congregate Care Specialists

On Friday, March 21, 2008 the Department of Juvenile Justice welcomed into their ranks twenty-two new Juvenile Counselors and one Congregate Care Specialist, all of whom graduated from the Department's Training Academy at a ceremony at the Department's 110 William Street headquarters.

Assistant Commissioner Scott Trent opened the event by stating, "I am pleased to be here to celebrate the graduation of this class of Juvenile Counselors and Congregate Care Specialists of 2008," and welcomed the new employees, who were joined by family, friends and DJJ staff.

After introductory remarks by Assistant Commissioner for Programs and Services Nina Aledort, the Honorable Divine Pryor, Ph.D., presented the keynote address. Dr. Pryor, a formerly incarcerated person, is Deputy Executive Director of the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions at Medgar Evers College and a renowned criminologist and lecturer on the criminal justice system with a dual Doctorate degree in public health and criminal justice.

Dr. Pryor delivered a powerful and 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 and noting the fact that DJJ provides an opportunity for a young person to turn his or her life around. "Do not label people by the mistakes they have made at a point in their lives," Dr. Pryor remarked.

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

