



**Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice**  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Office of Juvenile Justice Receives Prestigious National Award American Correctional Association presents Golden Eagle Award for 100 Percent Accreditation**



***OJJ Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary L. Livers, left, and OJJ ACA Accreditation Manager Angela Arabie accept the ACA Golden Eagle Award.***

The American Correctional Association (ACA) has presented the Golden Eagle Award, its highest honor for commitment to excellence, to the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) for its work in achieving ACA accreditation in all of its units, including its three secure care facilities (and one satellite facility), 11 regional field services offices (and one sub-office) and the central office in Baton Rouge.

OJJ is only the third juvenile justice system in the nation to win the ACA Golden Eagle Award. In addition to Louisiana, only Kentucky's and Ohio's Departments of Juvenile Justice have attained the ACA Golden Eagle Award. The award was presented to OJJ officials at the ACA annual summer conference held last week in Washington, DC.

"Staff throughout the entire agency have worked tirelessly to achieve accreditation of all units in the agency," said Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary L. Livers. "While I am very proud to have received this important recognition from ACA, the credit goes to the OJJ staff in every location, who worked together in their respective units and supported one another as needed. This award reflects the dedication of our staff to the highest standards of excellence and their commitment to our mission of providing

quality services to at-risk youth on the path toward becoming productive, law-abiding citizens."

OJJ's Community-Based Field Services (CBS) Unit, with probation and parole offices sited in 11 cities throughout the state, has been accredited since 1994. Accreditation is valid for three years. CBS was most recently re-accredited in June 2011. Juvenile probation and aftercare services standards were audited by a team of ACA auditors, who found the unit to be 100 percent compliant on 202 mandatory and non-mandatory standards.

For secure care facilities, 38 mandatory and 329 non-mandatory standards cover all aspects of each facility, including treatment, safety, medical and mental health care, as well as environmental factors. Both Swanson Center for Youth in Monroe and Jetson Center for Youth in Baker were accredited in 2011. Jetson Center for Youth was accredited after an ACA audit found the facility 100 percent compliant on 367 separate standards. ACA Auditors found Swanson to be in 100 percent compliance on 38 mandatory standards and 97.45 percent compliant on 329 non-mandatory standards. Bridge City Center for Youth, near New Orleans, was accredited in 2012, after ACA auditors found the facility in 100 percent compliance on 38 mandatory standards and 99.3 percent compliant with 331 non-mandatory standards.

Central office was accredited in 2009 and re-accredited in 2012, with 100 percent compliance on two mandatory and 138 non-mandatory standards.

ACA is the oldest and largest correctional association in the world, dedicated to excellence and serving all disciplines within the profession. According to the organization, one of ACA's greatest strength is development of national standards and implementation of the accreditation process. Through accreditation, agencies are able to maintain a balance between protecting the public and providing an environment that safeguards the life, health and safety of staff and offenders. ACA standards reflect practical, up-to-date policies and procedures, and function as a management tool for over 1,500 correctional agencies throughout the nation. ACA states that about 80 percent of all state departments of corrections and youth services are active participants, as well as programs and facilities operated by the private sector and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

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