

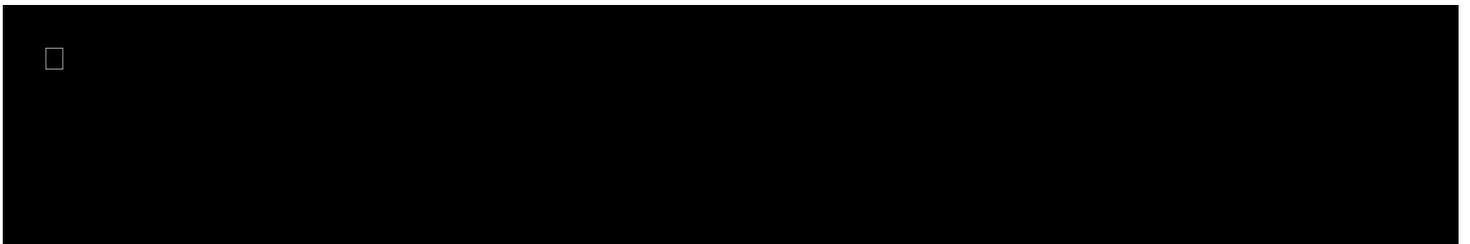
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EXTENDED

Positivity leads to tip offs for CJCF students

By Jennifer Bahney Assistant Editor Apr 5, 2016 (...)



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Students from four youth institutions went head-to-head at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility in a basketball tournament designed to

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CIRCLEVILLE — Many kids will jump at the chance to take on their peers in a good game of basketball. But for students at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility (CJCF), there’s more to a game of hoops than simply scoring points — it’s an incentive and a reward for positive behavior.

Recently, some 40 young men from Cuyahoga Hills JCF, Indian River JCF, and Lighthouse Youth Services — Paint Creek, traveled to CJCF for a much-anticipated basketball tournament. The students, aged 16 to 20, worked hard in school and developed a positive mindset so they would be invited to play.

“The kids love being rewarded and seeing themselves do great things and reaping the benefits,” said Demetrius Al-lateef, assistant to the superintendent at CJCF.

Located on Island Road, CJCF includes a fully-accredited high school, behavioral health services, medical and dental care, religious services, community opportunities, and reentry assistance for incarcerated youth.

The Ohio Department of Youth Service’s mission is to “Improve Ohio’s future by habilitating youth and empowering families and communities.”

“We get young men in our care who have been doing things a certain way for years and their change in esteem or behavior will not come overnight,” Al-lateef said. “But it will come by us telling them daily how they can do anything they put their minds to and that they are of value.”

Al-lateef said that the CJCF staff also plays an important part in the students’ rehabilitation by acting as positive role models. Staff members hold the basketball tournament once each year, and the students look forward to the event. In addition to providing positive reinforcement, the tournament is designed to teach some important life-lessons.

“We wanted to focus on sportsmanship and teamwork and just playing together,” Al-lateef said.

Throughout the year, the students are treated to other games like intramural chess and flag football.

“Some like the recreational aspect and others like the educational component, as with chess,” Al-lateef said. “The biggest challenge in teaching the young men self-esteem and good behavior is knowing that you have to reinforce the behavior daily.”



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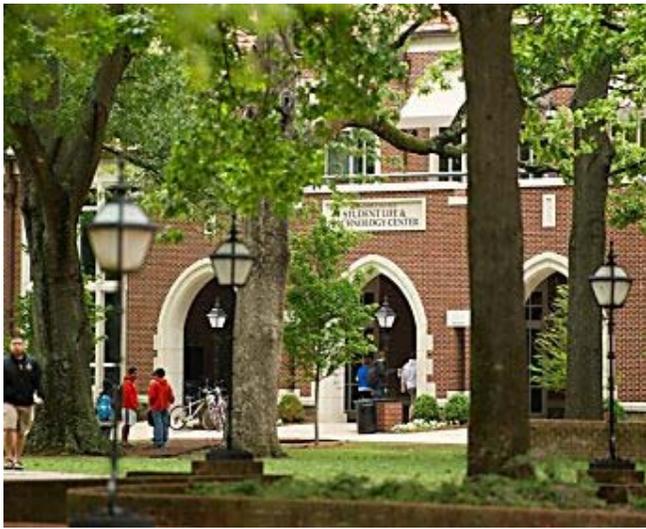
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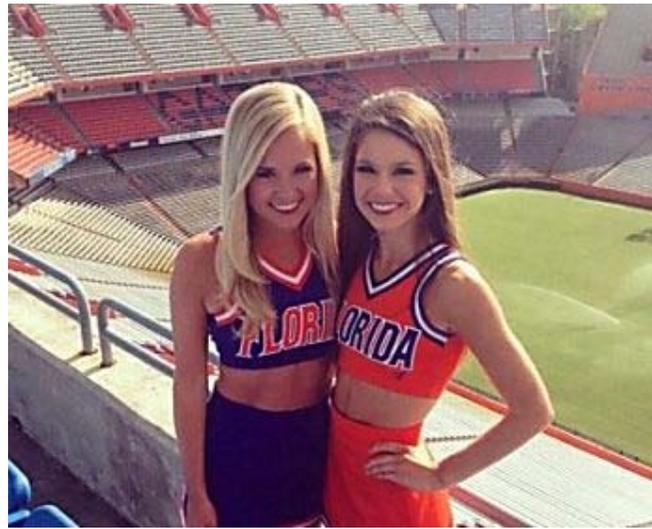
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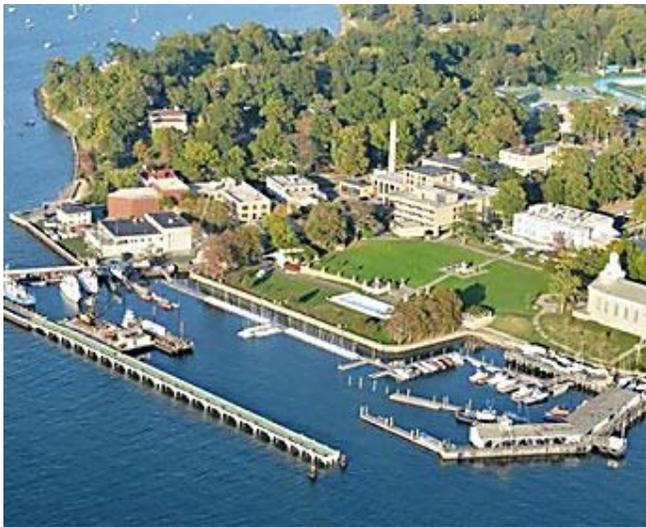
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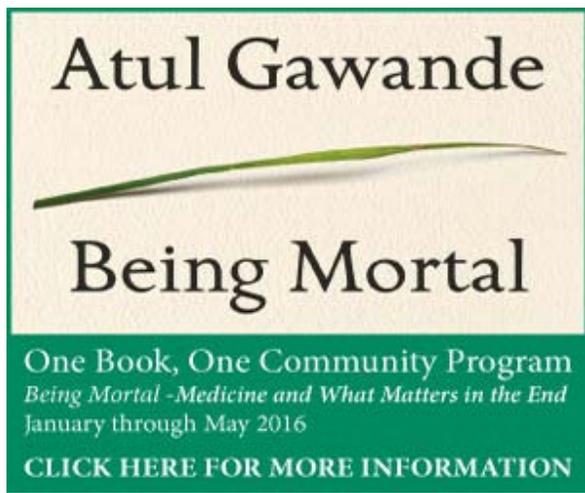
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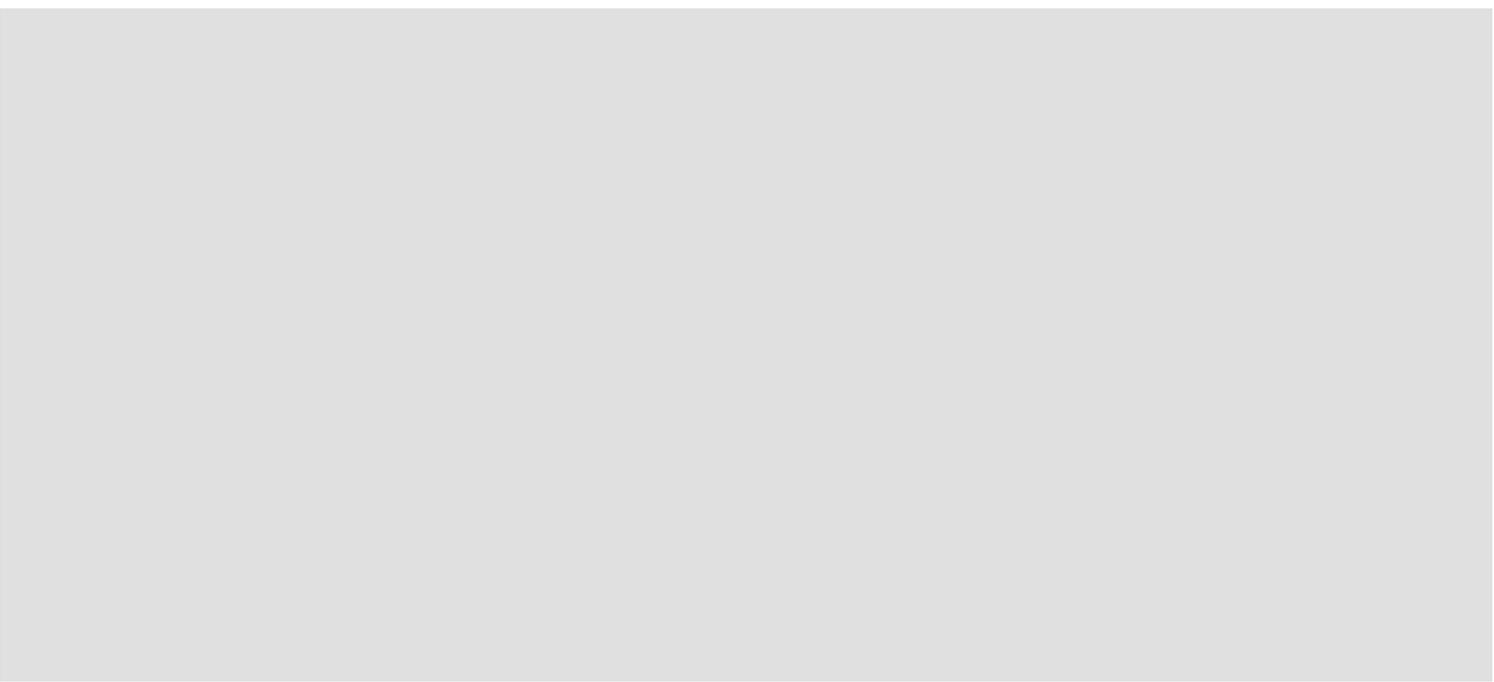
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