



Department of
Youth Services

Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed
University of Kansas Students Participate in Service Learning at DYS

January 23, 2014

Dear Staff and Stakeholders:

Last week, a total of 7 students from the University of Kansas (KU) spent the week participating in service learning at DYS. The experience was part of the students "Alternative Break Program" and included visits to Scioto JCF, Indian River JCF, Circleville JCF, the Franklin County Detention Center, and a couple of schools and community programs for youth in Columbus.

The students spent their days participating in a variety of trainings, interacting with youth, shadowing staff, and sitting in on groups. Our youth appreciated having positive peer role models to interact with and used the opportunity to ask questions about college life. The KU students were struck by the many ways that DYS serves youth.

KU students spent time with Buckeye Reach, which is a group of student volunteers from The Ohio State University who provide peer-to-peer mentoring, critical thinking, and educational programming to youth at Circleville JCF. Our guests were so impressed with Buckeye Reach that they expressed interest in creating a similar initiative in Kansas.

A student named Jaime had this to say: "I had one of the most memorable experiences of my life thanks to the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the amazing Buckeye Reach program. I had the privilege to meet and interact with some of the most motivated staff members and kids in the DYS facilities. It was so inspiring to see just how much people care about youth, from those in elementary and middle schools to those who are in the corrections system. Buckeye Reach is doing great things for youth in Ohio. Thank you for letting KU see a glimpse of what you do!"

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of the KU students for choosing to learn about the ways we strive to habilitate youth. I would also like to thank the staff who helped facilitate the group's visit: Clifford Smith (DYS Volunteer Coordinator), Gwendolyn Randle (Behavioral Health Administrator), Kerry Baker (Scioto JCF Program Administrator), Charlie Ford (Indian River JCF Deputy Superintendent of Programs), and Art James (Circleville JCF Deputy Superintendent of Programs).



Back row from left to right: Clifford Smith (DYS), Grace (KU), Alex (KU), Daniel E. (KU), Brock (KU), and Gwendolyn Randle (DYS)
Front row from left to right: Courtney (KU), Jaime (KU), and Daniel H. (KU)