



Department of  
Youth Services

## Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed Juvenile Parole Officer Receives National Award

August 12, 2016



Northern Parole Region Juvenile Parole Officer (JPO) Jewel Jones recently received nationwide acclaim for her efforts to address gang activity.

Since becoming a JPO in 2013, she has worked to help youth focus on their futures rather than the offenses that landed them in DYS, help youth stabilize as they return back to their communities, and build positive relationships with law enforcement.

Last year Jewel was a participant at the National Gang Crime Research Center's Training Conference. Organizers took note of her participation and sharing best practices from Ohio. As a result, she was invited to formally present at this year's conference. While there, Jewel was honored with the Thrasher Award, recognizing superior service to security threat group coordination and parole.

"Jewel brings boundless energy and undaunted optimism to all she does," said Ian Fraser, Regional Administrator. "It takes an exceptional person to persevere and to know that the future of those with whom she works is yet to be written. Since joining the agency, Jewel has consistently shown the compassion required to ensure that the children and families on her caseload receive all

that they need to author a better future, and she has the depth of experience to know when the old familiar tale is beginning to emerge."

Jewel explained that effective gang intervention comes down to building a positive relationship with the youth. "We have to hold them accountable, and at the same time, we have to be relatable and treat youth as individuals," she said. "It's about being raw and uncut. Tell them to do the right thing."

She said she tries to provide a strong sense of support and guidance for the youth she supervises.

"We need to show these kids we care," Jewel added. "You have to love what you do—and I do."