



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

Ted Strickland, Governor • Thomas J. Stickrath, Director

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American Correctional Association Presents Department of Youth Services Director with its Highest Honor

Columbus, Ohio — Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) Director Tom Stickrath was presented with the prestigious E.R. Cass Correctional Achievement Award on Tuesday by the American Correctional Association (ACA).

The award, which was created in 1962 in honor of Edward R. Cass, ACA's general secretary for more than 40 years, is presented each year to the individual(s) most dedicated to the field of corrections.

"I congratulate Director Stickrath on this achievement award. I have known Tom for many years, and have been personally impressed by his professionalism and dedication to the field of corrections," said Governor Ted Strickland. "We can be proud of his many professional accomplishments, although it is his character and management approach that will leave the lasting legacy."

During his 30 years of working in corrections, Stickrath has made many significant contributions to the field and to ACA. Since becoming the director of DYS, he has instituted an aggressive agenda of change and reform that touches all aspects of the Department. As director, he achieved ACA accreditation for all programs in the department's jurisdiction, thus earning the Golden Eagle Award, the first juvenile correctional system in the nation to achieve such distinction. Also under his leadership, DYS received a \$14 million grant to address youth illiteracy, the largest grant ever awarded to DYS.

Prior to becoming DYS director, he served as assistant director of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) and drew high praise for his work in restructuring the department's correctional mental health care system and developing it into a national model. Stickrath was also instrumental in forming the Correctional Accreditation Association of Ohio (CAAO) and with the drafting of the first-ever performance-based standards for adult community residential services.

DYS is the juvenile corrections system for the state of Ohio and is statutorily mandated to confine felony offenders, ages 10 to 21, who have been adjudicated and committed by one of Ohio's 88 county juvenile courts. DYS operates six correctional and rehabilitation facilities and provides parole services from six regional sites.

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