



# WHAT'S WORKING

*A Message From DJJ Director Andy Block*

*June 26, 2015*

## Families, Guests Celebrate At First Joint Graduation

Mortarboards were gleefully tossed in the air Friday morning following the first-ever joint graduation exercises of Yvonne B. Miller High School graduates from Bon Air and Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Centers.

Author Reginald Dwayne Betts, a Yale Law School student who was once himself incarcerated as a youth, provided inspirational remarks. Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Victoria Cochran officially welcomed graduates, families and guests.

"The graduation ceremony was very emotional for me," said Director of Training and Development Patrick Bridge. "Hearing the young men speak about their experience was a powerful reminder of the importance of the agency's work and the positive difference we can make."

"There was no denying the passion and effort it took the residents and staff to get to that moment," noted Michael Favale of DJJ's Policy and Planning team. "Everyone involved in the effort should be congratulated and thanked for reminding us all of the Department's hope and promise."

"It was the best graduation ceremony I've seen since I've been with DJJ," said Daryl Francis, Deputy Director for Administration and Finance. "Dr. Lisa Floyd, JCC Superintendents Doug Vargo and Peggy Parrish and all Operations and Education staff did a remarkable job of working together to coordinate the event, allowing it to be a smoothly-run, meaningful occasion that everyone enjoyed."

