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News Release

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New Scholarship for DJS Youth Established

Baltimore, MD (January 8, 2010) – Outgoing Department of Juvenile Services ("DJS") Secretary Donald W. DeVore made a significant contribution to establish a new scholarship for DJS youth. The scholarship fund was created to benefit DJS youth who complete the Garrett College Program at Backbone Mountain Youth Center and wish to further their education at a community college of their choice.

"Education is one of the best ways that delinquent youth can change their lives and achieve a brighter future," said Secretary Donald W. DeVore. "I am very excited to establish this scholarship fund so that dedicated DJS youth who have demonstrated a commitment to further their education can have the opportunity to get an associate degree," he remarked.

The collaboration between the Department of Juvenile Services and Garrett College located in McHenry, Maryland began in the fall of 2006. DJS youth apply and are selected for the limited slots available for the program. Courses offered typically include English, Computer and Leadership classes. The youth who participate earn up to 9 college-level credits. Since the program's inception, over 120 youth have completed the program with over 40% continuing their college education or pursuing careers in the workforce or military.

Each year, DJS will select a youth who has successfully completed the Garrett College Program and has enrolled in a community college and award that youth with a \$500.00 stipend. DeVore hopes that sources of matching funds either through the community college system or grants from other sources will sustain the scholarship well into the future.

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