

**Local Team of Attorneys, Judges, and Law Enforcement One of Nine Teams  
Nationally Selected to Attend Georgetown University Certificate Program on  
Juvenile Justice Reform**

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Sioux Falls, SD - The South Dakota Council for Juvenile Services is sponsoring a team comprised of County, State, and City and non-profit employees to attend a Georgetown University certificate program in Washington, DC during November. The certificate program will discuss the area of racial and ethnic fairness and develop ways to divert juveniles from the justice system. Team Members include Senior Deputy State's Attorney Carole James, Senior Deputy Public Defender Andrew Robertson, Circuit Judge on the Juvenile Bench Joni Cutler, Sioux Falls Supervisory School Resource Officer Sgt. Jason Leach, and County-funded Racial and Ethnic Fairness Coordinator for Lutheran Social Services Annie Brokenleg.

"I am pleased that a locally-based team was competitively selected to study best practices with leading national experts to help ensure youth from diverse backgrounds have access to culturally appropriate and relevant resources. The ideas and concepts discussed at the certificate program will help mitigate potentially negative effects of entering the juvenile justice system," says Betty Oldenkamp, Chair of the South Dakota Council for Juvenile Services and President/CEO of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota.

The South Dakota Council for Juvenile Services will cover the \$3,000 per person cost of tuition and travel expenses for each South Dakota participant in the certificate program. The content of the certificate program consists of two primary components. The first component includes learning from a team of experts trained in research-based strategies on how communities can best serve youth of color who interact with the juvenile justice system. The second component includes a capstone project that will develop a plan to bring additional community based services and help ensure youth have equal opportunities for a successful future.

Minnehaha County Commissioner Cindy Heiberger said, "Receiving acceptance to a nationally recognized certificate program is the result of collaboration between a non-profit organization and County, State, and City government. It's an example of what can get done when we roll up our sleeves and partner together."

Judge Joni Cutler, added "I'm pleased our local team will have access to nationally recognized instructors and experts who can assist us in designing and implementing programs to promote racial and ethnic fairness in our justice system."

The certificate program will be conducted by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University. The South Dakota based team will travel to Washington, DC November 14-17, 2017.