

Profiles of Stewardship-Allendale Correctional Institution

Justice Sunday, January 19, 2020 held at Denmark Technical College was the first South Carolina event for this national campaign. Justice Sunday commemorates the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that conjoined faith and justice to promote equality, equity, and social justice. It also is a day that is used to celebrate community leadership. As such, President Willie L. Todd, Jr. presented 27 Community Steward Awards to individuals or groups who continually exemplify outstanding service to Allendale, Bamberg, and/or Barnwell counties. In the weeks to follow, the 2020 Awardees will appear under the title "Profiles of Stewardship." The following information was submitted to the Justice Sunday Steering Committee – January 15, 2020.

The Allendale Correctional Institution has received recognition for the many components that allow internees to receive rehabilitation. It offers a variety of programs and courses to effectuate its population's return to the mainstream workforce and their respective communities. In 2015, the SC Department of Corrections (SCDC) named Allendale Correctional Institution its first character-based facility.

Present administrators are Warden Yvonne Wilkins-Smith, Warden McKendley Newton, and Associate Warden Arthur Fredericks. The Allendale Correctional Institution allows volunteers to assist in educational and religious offerings. The arts, especially music, bring sources for creative expression that can lead to greater self-awareness. Crafting in the form of woodworking has become a cottage industry for ACI.

One of the most successful programs is the animal training and grooming project. Unadoptable cats and dogs are placed with trainers by the Animal Advocates of Barnwell. Meow Mates and Mutt Mates allow pet handling and grooming education and has proved therapeutic in learning compassion, sharing, and responsibility. The sense of caring is expanded in those participating in the animal program. Participants may earn a 400-hr certified grooming program from the East Coast School of Grooming.

South Carolina has modeled other correctional facilities after Allendale Correctional Institution. ACI has received national attention and is the subject of the documentary "Character in Custody." It looks to increase its offerings to greater assist internees in their return to society as productive citizens. It is for these and other related efforts to develop, educate, and impact internees' successful rehabilitation and return to society, that the Allendale Correctional Institution is awarded the 2020 Community Steward Award for Judicial.

Denmark Technical College thanks all who attended and supported Justice Sunday. The College invites you to future events. Classes for Denmark Technical College's 2nd Eight Week semester begin on March 3rd. For further information on Justice Sunday contact 803.793.5259. For further information on registration contact 803.793.5175.

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Pictured above is Warden McKendley Newton with DTC President, Dr. Willie L. Todd, Jr.



