

## **Tyger River Correctional Institution Receives Grant from the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries**

**COLUMBIA, S.C. (May 21, 2015)** – Tyger River High School, one of the South Carolina Department of Corrections schools through the Palmetto Unified School District (PUSD) has received a grant from The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries. More than \$875,000 is being distributed to 131 school libraries across the country.

“Education is an important component of reducing recidivism at the department of corrections, improving the school library will help in that mission,” said Director Bryan P. Stirling.

As of April 2015, inmates at Tyger River Correctional Institution, located in Enoree, S.C. have earned 54 GED's, 129 Vocational Certifications, 39 Work Keys, and 42 On-The-Job Training certificates. Tyger River High School is one of eight high schools operated by the Palmetto Unified School District at the South Carolina Department of Corrections. PUSD's mission is to maximize the academic, vocational and life skills of student inmates for their successful return to society.

The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries provides grants up to \$7,000 to our Nation's neediest schools so that they can extend, update, and diversify the book and print collections in their libraries with the goal of encouraging students to develop a love of reading and learning. Since its inception in 2002, it has awarded over \$12.5 million to almost 2,500 schools across the country. In addition to the annual grants, the “Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative” in 2006 provided more than \$6.3 million to school libraries affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita so that they could rebuild book collections lost or destroyed in the storms.

“No matter what you want to be when you grow up – a doctor or a lawyer, a Senator, an artist, or a teacher, reading will help you reach your goal...By providing more schools with better reading materials, the Laura Bush Foundation helps students understand more of the world around them, and its limitless possibilities,” said Mrs. Laura Bush.

In 2014, The Laura Bush Foundation transitioned from the Communities Foundation for the National Capital Region in Washington, D.C. to the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, Texas, where it is managed as a restricted fund. More information can be found at the newly launched [www.laurabushfoundation.org](http://www.laurabushfoundation.org).