

PUSD Celebrates a Birthday at its Board of Trustees Meeting and District Wide In-Service Training

The Palmetto Unified School District held its annual Board of Trustees meeting and in-service training at the SCDC Training Academy on August 3, 2016. It was an extra special day because PUSD is celebrating its 35th year of existence at the Department of Corrections. A main objective of the meeting, as always, is to provide the District/Agency's educational staff members with information that will enable them to efficiently and effectively operate school programs in each of SCDC's 22 institutions. The occasion also serves as an opportunity to recognize institutional and individual achievements during the past year. Sandra Barrett, Deputy Director of Programs and Services for SCDC, was the guest speaker during the morning session.



Superintendent Dr. Randy Reagan presided over the meeting and pointed out the importance of the Character Education concept utilized by SCDC. "Creating a more positive climate and increasing employee and inmate morale is paramount to the success we're able to achieve," stated Reagan. He pointed out that the inmate population dropped last year and that while assaults were up, there was a 6% decline in inmate grievances.

Dr. Reagan said during the year there was a 10% increase in academic achievements such as earned diplomas, GEDs, Vocational certificates, WorkKeys certifications, and OJT awards in the

inmate population. The On the Job training was actually up 40%, Reagan reported, to its highest number ever. The superintendent also said that new vocational programs like culinary arts, residential and commercial painting and plumbing had been added to the curriculum.

Among the many awards presented, Manning CI School Leader Yvette Lakin received the Academic Cup of Excellence for showing the greatest academic gain district-wide and for meeting all her academic goals.



Yvette Lakin (R) receives Academic Cup of Excellence from Ms. Barrett and Ms. Rebecca Godbey (L) , Board of Trustee member.

The 2017 Teacher of the Year Award went to Linda Bratton of Perry CI. She was awarded with the traditional rocking chair made by SCDC inmates in the carpentry program. Ms. Bratton will also be awarded \$1,000 by the South Carolina Department of Education. (Next page)



Congratulations to all our Educators for the outstanding job they do every day to improve the lives of our inmates!