

1 in June of 2012, including thirty-four graduates from the Swanson Center for Youth's
2 Southside Alternative High School, nine graduates from the Bridge City Center for Youth,
3 and eleven graduates from the Scenic Alternative High School at Jetson Center, as well as
4 the awarding of GEDs to an additional fifty-seven youths while in an OJJ secure care facility
5 in 2012; and

6 WHEREAS, OJJ secure care facilities have introduced two new vocational programs,
7 including Bridge City Center for Youth's auto mechanic program, which saw twenty youths
8 receiving certifications from its Convergent Technology vocational program, and Bridge
9 City Center for Youth's culinary arts program, which saw nineteen students receive their
10 ServSafe certificate, a nationally accredited food safety certification from the National
11 Restaurant Association; and

12 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Education measures the progress of all
13 Louisiana schools, including schools inside OJJ secure care facilities, and has designated the
14 schools at both Swanson Center for Youth and Bridge City Center for Youth as a "*Top Gains*
15 *School*", meaning a school within the top-third of all 440 Louisiana schools, in light of both
16 schools improving their performance by doubling their projected growth target; and

17 WHEREAS, the American Correctional Association (ACA) re-accredited OJJ's
18 central office in the summer of 2012 after OJJ's central office passed one hundred percent
19 of the ACA accreditation standards; and

20 WHEREAS, Bridge City Center for Youth received a formal recommendation for
21 accreditation by the ACA, which, once achieved, will mean that all OJJ offices and facilities
22 will be ACA accredited; and

23 WHEREAS, Harvard University recently recognized OJJ for its innovative
24 programming for youth, specifically praising OJJ's Service Coordination Model, a
25 government initiative through the "Bright Ideas" program, an initiative of the broader
26 Innovations in American Government Awards program at the John F. Kennedy School of
27 Government, Harvard University; and

28 WHEREAS, OJJ partnered with the Northshore Community and Technical College
29 and the MacArthur Foundation to establish a model whereby community and technical
30 colleges work with youth involved with the juvenile justice system, creating an individual

1 career pathway for participating youth through career guidance, intensive case management
2 and follow-up, education, job skills training, pre-employment services, as well as job
3 placement services upon completion of their chosen academic program.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
5 commend and publicly acknowledge the Department of Public Safety and Corrections,
6 Youth Services, Office of Juvenile Justice, for the foregoing series of accomplishments.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
8 Deputy Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Youth Services,
9 Office of Juvenile Justice.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Julie J. Baxter.

DIGEST

Broome

SCR No. 56

Commends and publicly acknowledges a series of reform accomplishments of the
Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Youth Services, Office of Juvenile Justice
(OJJ).