

## ***Press Release***

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### **New Year, New Beginnings**

- It costs around \$32,000 a year to house an adult inmate in Montana Prisons. This could average out to \$1.8 million for one inmate over his/her lifetime.
- It costs \$235 a day to keep a youth at the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC). This amounts to \$85,775 a year for one youth.
- The JDC houses youth from 10-17 years old. In 2015, there were 172 female and 380 male for a total of 552. In 2016, there were 220 female and 416 male for a total of 636. In 2017, there were 171 female and 334 male for a total of 505.
- The JDC collaborates with Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) and Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE).
- April Senger is a GFPS certified teacher that works at JDC.
- Tammie Hickey supervises the ABLE program for GFPS, which provides services to the students including: TABE placement; high school equivalency testing; reading, math, and language skill building; digital literacy skills; ELA (English language acquisition); employability skills; career preparation; college preparation; citizenship preparation; among others.
- JDC certified staff administers the HiSet (high school equivalency test) at JDC. They have increased the number of HiSet tests administered from 1 subject test in 2014 to 117 subject tests in 2017.
- In 2017, 152 HiSet tests at the JDC: 132 passed.
- Since changes were made to the program, in partnerships with GFPS and ABLE, JDC has had 22 graduates (19 HiSet and one traditional). Currently, only one of those graduates has reoffended.
- The youth being interviewed are either currently in the program, in the process of enrolling in college, or currently in college.
- Adam Jerome is a certified teacher working for the JDC.