

## OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Entrants must complete all sections for the entry to be considered complete. A copy of this official entry is available at <http://www.pacounties.org/ProgramServices/Pages/Criminal-Justice.aspx>

Name/County Nominator James E. Jones Jr./Central Counties Youth Center  
Address 148 Paradise Road  
City, State, Zip Code Bellefonte, Pa. 16823  
Title Administrator  
Contact Phone 814-355-0650

### PARTNER INFORMATION

Name of nominee Judy Koch  
Title of nominee Teacher

### NARRATIVE

**Enter narrative that explains the following:**

**Contributions** – Discuss the contributions the nominee has made to improving county corrections or juvenile justice at the local, regional, or state level

The educational services for the kids at the Central Counties Youth Center are provided by the Central Intermediate Unit #10 as they place a teacher and a paraprofessional in the classroom throughout the school year. Ms. Judy Koch is our teacher and is in her third (3<sup>rd</sup>) year at the Center, providing the students with excellent instruction, a friendly disposition and an educational setting which encourages the students to want to improve on their educational opportunities.

Ms. Koch has tremendous responsibility placed on her shoulders to provide the education these kids so desperately need. Pre-testing of the students over the years has shown that they have a deficit of between 3 and 4 years in the basic math and reading skills for someone their age. Because the average age of our kids is 16 years old (usually a Junior or Senior in High School), that means they are working at an 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade level. Most of these kids are also the students who have been suspended from school or placed in alternative programs at their home schools. It is Ms. Koch's responsibility to create a positive learning environment, while at the same time adjusting the curriculum to be inclusive of all students of different ages and learning abilities.

Ms. Koch accomplishes this through her knowledge, experience and a positive learning

environment. She utilizes traditional classroom learning through books and the internet, but limits this somewhat due to the reading abilities of the students. She teaches current events through use of news reports and fun games of "Jeopardy". She encourages critical thinking by having the students write reports on different subjects or books, then weaves in public speaking by having the students give a presentation of their report to the rest of the class and the staff. I have had an opportunity to sit in on these presentations many times and Ms. Koch is always ready to step in and help when the student is struggling with the presentation. Finally, Ms. Koch uses everyday situations and chores as a learning tool. During any week, you can see the students making some food items utilizing basic math skills to measure ingredients, use their reading skills to read the recipes and while at the same time gain life skills of cooking, baking, cleaning up after yourself and working with others. Ms. Koch also utilizes art projects to allow the kids to express their thoughts and feelings and displays them in the classroom. Finally she allows the kids to utilize critical thinking to plan projects together that will enhance the educational experience. A prime example of this was last year when Ms. Koch and the students wanted to paint the classroom to make it a more appealing space. Ms. Koch led them through the planning on what materials they would need. She then got sample paint colors and had the students voice their preference on colors that they would paint the classroom. Once this was decided, she worked with the students figuring out how much paint of the different colors would be needed based on the square footage of the walls and the coverage areas of the paint. They figured out how much tape would be needed to cover areas that we did not want to paint or would be different colors. Finally, when we were ready to begin painting, she had the students learn how the cover areas and begin painting. This was a learning experience as many had never planned and carried out a project before, but it was part of a life learning process which taught basic math skills, reading skills, life skills and the importance of cooperation. The students were proud of the outcome of their project and gained valuable insight into their abilities.

**Promotion of best practices** – Explain how the nominee has knowingly or unknowingly promoted the goals of the best practices program

The education of our children is a cornerstone of any Program that wants to reduce the number of kids in out of home placements or to reduce recidivism associated with the Juvenile Justice System. Quality education at younger ages will also have an effect on future employment, wage earning and self-esteem, all important factors in future success. As has been mentioned earlier, a vast majority of the kids who are detained at the Center are severely lacking in their educational skills. I have had many teachers from the public school system tell me that the kids we get at the Center are the kids who sit in the back of the classroom and have no interest in learning. We are finding that in our classroom, with Ms. Koch as the leader, that these same kids are becoming involved, interested and invested in their education. It is great to walk by the

classroom or walk into the classroom and see the smile on the student's faces, the interaction between Ms. Koch and the students and the excitement they have for something new that they just learned. By Ms. Koch providing a position learning experience in our classroom and showing the students that they can succeed, we hope that this will carry over into the classroom settings that they will go into once they leave us. Ms. Koch is committed to these kids and takes great pride in helping them achieve their success, which will only help them as they go through life.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Please include any supporting documentation to demonstrate the impact of the project in cost or population outcomes, or other data to demonstrate the considerations utilized in determining the scope or design of the project. Scoring will be based on factors including the entrant's description of the problem, the soundness of the approach, and success in meeting goals and objectives. Award submissions will receive consideration for outcomes or best practices supported by data. **SUPPORTING INFORMATION SHOULD BE COPIED AND PASTED DIRECTLY INTO THE FORM USING THE BOX BELOW.**

During the three (3) years Ms. Koch has been in the classroom, the percentage of kids who have been detained multiple times (recidivism) has dropped significantly. In 2016 there were 218 different kids detained and 36 of them were detained multiple times for 17%. In 2017 there were 165 different kids detained and 30 of them were detained multiple times for 18%. In 2018 there were 166 different kids detained and 20 of them were detained multiple times for 12%. While I am sure that this cannot solely be attributed to the Educational Program, it is one aspect of the Juvenile Justice System which can make a significant impact on out of home placements.

In addition to the above, in 2018 we had 100% of our kids who were detained during the school year participate in the Educational Program, most within hours of being admitted to the Center. During this same period of time, the number of times that a student has been asked to leave the classroom for not putting forth an effort has dropped from 7 times a week in 2015 to 3.5 times a week in 2018. The primary reason for this is the fact that Ms. Koch uses various teaching methods to reach the students as have been outlined prior and the students are enjoying the classroom experience.

Finally, in 2018 there was not a single student who failed a subject while participating in our Educational Program. Each student is graded in the basic core subjects and these grades are forwarded to the next placement they are going to and/or their home school. 100% of the kids passed all written and oral tests, participated in the classroom activities and had a positive approach to learning.

It is impossible to get a valid assessment of any advancement that the students have in their educational abilities due to the short duration of stay (medium stay of 9 days) and the unknown of when they will actually be leaving (most we do not know in advance when they will be leaving), we are seeing increased enthusiasm and excitement from the students in the classroom. This can only be a positive outcome in the future of these kids.

**Each application must be submitted with the signature of the nominating party.**

Signatures can be entered electronically, or submitted via fax using a separate form. To sign, right-click on the signature line, select "Signature Setup" from the drop down, and follow the

prompts. If submitting signatures on a separate form, enter "FAXING" on the signature line.

X   
James E. Jones Jr.  
Administrator

**SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY – To submit the entry, save a copy of this completed form after all information, including signatures and supporting materials have been added. When saving the form, please assure that the document name includes the county name, the type of project and the year – (i.e. FranklinPartnerAward2019). Address an email to [bpenyak@pacounties.org](mailto:bpenyak@pacounties.org) and attach the award submission.**

## **CCYC school year classroom.**

The educational program during the school year takes place from 7:45 to 3:15 Monday through Friday. Students attend five classes a day with 100% participation. Although much group work pertains to all, teachers recognize that all students are individuals and their personal goals as essential as the group goals. The following classes use teacher assessments to evaluate the students' current abilities to their growth in each area. The uniqueness of the small classroom (less than 15 students) with the same teacher throughout the day enables to program to maintain an interdisciplinary (multi-subjects integrated within lessons) and personalized education assisting in achieving a minimum of 95% growth for each student. Technology of off-line personal computers and a class online computer are useful to all subject areas. Using the Pennsylvania Core Standards for Grade 6-12, the following goals part of the in CCYC's school year's program with a large emphasis placed on positive citizenship behaviors, self-compassion, self-esteem, and successful school behaviors, often necessary for the high-risk, trauma, and stressed detention center student.

### **English Language Arts:**

Students read, understand, and respond to informational text—with an emphasis on comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and making connections among ideas and between texts with focus on textual evidence.

Students read and respond to works of literature. While at CCYC students are expected to read a book of their choice outside of class, complete a written critic, and orally present to the class.

Students write for different purposes and audiences including letters, argumentative essays, and expressing subject areas content higher-level reasoning.

Assessments: Students are asked for a writing sample to assess grammar, sentence structure, content, and the process of writing (steps, strategies, planning, organizing) for a baseline. Growth in areas of need are assessed twice a week. Reading comprehension assessment are also given.

### **Math**

Goals are personalized for each student. Students are pretested in areas of problem solving, pre-algebra, algebra, algebra 2, or geometry depending on their abilities and appropriate skills assigned to each individual student. Students on the same level may use collaborative learning. Assessments include skills sheets and project work.

### **Science**

Students will advance their knowledge of the sciences with an emphasis on biology, current science events, scientific method, and higher-level thinking.

Assessments include experiment writing and content assessments.

### **Social Studies**

**Student will understand and express critical thinking of current events, civic history, and citizenship. Assessments include written and project-based constitutional knowledge and current event assessments.**

### **Family and Consumer Science**

**Students will understand the necessity of education, employment, and mental stability.**

**Emphasize is on setting personal goals to succeed in school, reaching out for outside help, practices and behaviors that will increase success and reduce recidivism. Assesments included completed small proect work and participatrion.**