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For Immediate Release:

Braintree, MA: The [PbS Learning Institute](http://pbstandards.org) (PbS) honored the winners of the 2017 PbS Barbara Allen-Hagen Award at the 2017 CJCA and PbS Awards Night in Chicago. The winners were recognized for best exemplifying PbS' commitment to treating all youths in custody as one of our own. Three winners were selected, one from each of the different types of residential facilities participating in PbS: correction facilities, detention/assessment centers and community residential programs. Twenty-nine facilities from across the country competed for the awards.

**The 2017 PbS Barbara Allen-Hagen Award winners are:**

- **Correction: Ferris School in Wilmington, DE**
- **Detention/Assessment: Nampa Observation and Assessment Center (O&A) in Nampa, ID**
- **Community Residential: Grace Cottage in Wilmington, DE**

The winners were selected for using the Facility Improvement Plan (FIP) process to guide culture changes and practices at the facility to improve conditions for youths and staff and treat youths as developing adolescents with limitless potential.

"This year's winners and finalists overcame resistance to change and made believers out of skeptics. They looked at obstacles such as limited resources as opportunities and patiently implemented new policies, practices, trainings and programming. They did what many think is impossible: changed facility cultures to be free of fighting, managed behavior with healthy, nurturing staff-youth relationships, made everyone feel safe and welcomed families for visits, treatment meetings and events. The 2017 winners, finalists and semi-finalists are inspirations for all of us," noted PbS Executive Director Kim Godfrey.

PbS is a data-driven improvement model grounded in research that challenges youth correction, detention, assessment and community residential facilities and agencies to treat all youths in custody as one of our own. PbS was launched 22 years ago by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to address the safety, health and quality of life issues reported in the 1994 Conditions of Confinement Study. Over time, PbS uniquely has established national standards to guide operations and uniform performance outcome measures to continuously, accurately and comprehensively monitor daily practices and cultures in youth facilities.

For more information please visit the PbS website: <http://pbstandards.org> or contact Executive Director Kim Godfrey at 781-843-2663.

