

2013
Virginia Juvenile Justice Association
Meritorious Award in the Area of Administration
EDWARD HOLMES

This year's recipient in the area of Administration is a career public servant of more than 35 years and has had a long and distinguished career in both the private enterprise and public service sectors. Our recipient began his career in 1978 in Hampton at the Less Secure Facility for Juveniles. At that time, he was also a graduate student in Social Work at Norfolk State University. Our recipient completed his graduate studies by 1981 and he began work as a Probation Counselor with the Norfolk Court Service until. By 1984, our recipient's skills and attributes were already well established and well known and within the Norfolk CSU and he was accordingly promoted to a supervisory position. In 1987, in addition to his fulltime employment as a Probation Supervisor, our recipient became an adjunct professor in social work at Norfolk State University. He was well known for his passion for teaching and his interest in inspiring the next generation of professionals to embrace the challenge and hard work entail in working with at-risk and delinquent children and families. After working for the Norfolk CSU for four years our recipient left the Norfolk CSU in 1988 to become a regional manager for a private home-based company, Community Based Services. He served in that capacity two years then transitioned to a Criminal Justice Analyst position with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). In 1993, our recipient returned to the Norfolk CSU to serve as the new Deputy Director. Under the leadership of a dynamic leadership team, that included Mr. Kevin Moran and Ms. Claudette Overton, the Norfolk CSU experienced a rapid expansion of staff, as well as the birth of a vast array of innovative programming and services for court involved children and families. Our recipient was instrumental in leading the Norfolk CSU toward the Balanced and Restorative Justice Model of intervention and he became a statewide subject matter expert and training resource. In 1999, our recipient was promoted to the position of Regional Manager for the Department of Juvenile Justice's Eastern Region. He served in that capacity until 2003 when he was promoted to Field Operations Manager. In 2010, our recipient transitioned to his current role as Regional Program Manager for the Department of Juvenile Justice's eastern region. During that time he has had oversight for court service units, a halfway house and a juvenile correctional center. During his career, our recipient has not only been highly successful but has been a prominent and effective role model for his colleagues. He is said to be a consummate professional who can always be counted on to handle diverse and complex problems with a calm and effective demeanor and confidence. His leadership impact and influence has been experienced by a diverse array of professionals within and outside of his agency and he has earned the respect and gratitude that is afforded to him by his colleagues. Our recipient has dedicated his career to helping delinquent and at-risk children and their families, training juvenile professionals, developing programming and services and improving community safety.

Colleagues had these things to say about our recipient,

I remember him as a colleague, but I know him best as our Regional Manager. During his tenure as our "boss," he can best be described as a great blend of knowledge, authority, care, reality, responsibility, and integrity. He always seems to find a way to be the resource we need at each critical time in a calm and professional manner. I believe his support and leadership have been invaluable to the success of those he supervises and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

As the months and years have passed since he became my immediate “boss,” I have grown to appreciate his calm demeanor, his careful choice of words, and his wise counsel. He commands respect from those he supervises and shows a real interest in our professional and personal lives. He is quick to focus on the mission of our agency while at the same time allowing personnel to use their creativity and resourcefulness in carrying out that mission. He teaches by example, exemplifies professionalism, and I am proud to call him my “Boss”.