

THE DJJ RUNDOWN



Welcome to The Rundown!

August 21, 2020

Welcome to *The DJJ Rundown*, a quick and informative way for our agency, providers and community partners to stay connected. We look forward to bringing you important news and updates on what's happening with Team DJJ as well as sharing some fun topics and ideas. Thank you for taking a moment out of your day with us and as always, thank you for supporting our agency's work in helping Florida's youth and families.

Five Questions For...

DJJ Secretary Simone Marsteller

Welcome to "Five Questions For..." where we are asking members of Team DJJ five questions on what they do for fun, life advice, and more (and they have to answer all of them). Of course, we had to start off our new segment with Secretary Marsteller! Who should we pick next to answer our five questions? Drop us a name at news@djj.state.fl.us!



What made you decide to work for DJJ?

Throughout my career, I've never been one to say no to an opportunity or challenge that comes my way. So, when Governor DeSantis asked me to serve as DJJ secretary, I said yes to the incredible opportunity to serve Florida citizens in a meaningful way despite the challenges I knew the job would bring. And it didn't take long for me to realize this may well be the most meaningful work I ever do!

What would you be doing if you didn't work for DJJ?

I have no idea, to be honest! My mother instilled in me the belief that God guides my steps and puts me where He needs me to be as part of his plan for my life. The fact that I'm at DJJ right now means this is exactly where I'm supposed to be.

Tell us the best piece of either professional or personal advice you've ever received?

Calling on my mother's wisdom once again, she always told me growing up, "Don't follow the crowd." Over the course of my life and career, my mother's advice has come to mean "Don't listen to the crowd." In other words, don't live your life by anyone else's narrative, and don't limit yourself because the crowd says you can't do a thing or don't have what it takes. Work hard, do well, and prove the naysayers wrong!

What do you do for fun outside of work?

I enjoy reading, watching foreign films and detective shows (I know, right?), and getting together with girlfriends to laugh and dish.

Tell us something about yourself that we might not know about you?

I danced ballet, tap, and jazz from the time I was 3 or 4 years old until I turned 13, I played piano and flute in elementary school, and was in the color guard with my high school marching band.

DJJ News You Can Use

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and Bethune-Cookman University (B-CU) have partnered to provide internship and employment opportunities to qualified B-CU students (undergraduate and graduate) majoring in Criminal Justice, Sociology, Psychology, Education, Political Science, and Health Science. The partnership will afford B-CU faculty and students the opportunity to work collaboratively with the DJJ's Office of Research & Data Integrity staff to identify and conduct cutting-edge juvenile justice research to improve the effectiveness of juvenile services across the department's service delivery continuum.

"DJJ is excited to partner with Bethune Cookman University, a prestigious institution of higher learning, to further the department's research efforts and provide opportunities for students interested in making a difference in Florida's juvenile justice system," said Secretary Simone Marsteller.

B-CU offers a Juvenile Justice Reform Certificate program in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Students who complete the certificate program and gain real-world experience with DJJ will be ideally positioned to become the next generation of juvenile justice professionals and leaders.

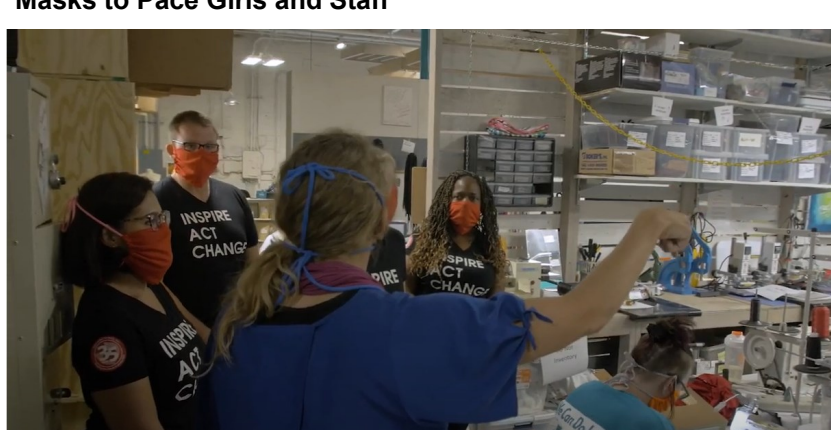
Quotable Quote

"You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

- A.A Milne

The Good News Report

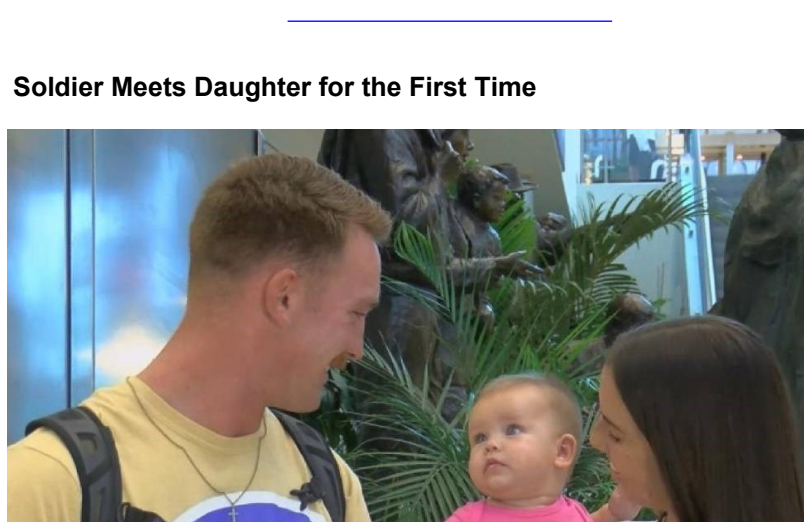
PACE Center for Girls Partners with Rethreaded to Provide 4,000 Masks to Pace Girls and Staff



PACE Center for Girls partnered with Rethreaded, a nonprofit that employs survivors of human trafficking, to produce 4,000 masks for PACE students, teachers and staff for the upcoming school year.

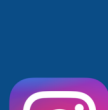
The masks will be provided to 22 PACE Center for Girls locations in Florida and Georgia.

Soldier Meets Daughter for the First Time



A soldier returning home recently met his 6-month old daughter for the first time. After struggling with fertility issues, the young couple Conner and Kristen Smith found out they were expecting just three months before Connor was deployed overseas. After 9 months in Kuwait, he was finally able to come home and have a joyous reunion with his wife and first meeting of his new daughter.

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