



SEEDS residents graduate from John Jay swimming clinic, headed by Olympiad and Head Swim Coach Dr. Jane Katz.

SEEDS/NSD Boys Make a Splash at John Jay College

On Saturday, April 5th, more than 30 boys from the Department’s SEEDS/Non-Secure Detention group homes participated in a ceremony at John Jay College’s swimming pool commemorating their successful completion of a swimming instruction program. The program was conducted by John Jay College Professor and Head Swim Coach and 1964 Synchronized Swimming Olympian, Dr. Jane Katz.

In two separate, consecutive ceremonies, residents from four of the DJJ’s group homes had the opportunity to demonstrate skills they acquired during Dr. Katz’s 6-week swimming instruction program. In the first ceremony, youth from the New View and Mandela House group homes showed Commissioner Neil Hernandez the skills they learned, as well as received their completion certificates from the Commissioner and Dr. Katz.

As part of the second ceremony, Dean and Bergen Street group homes made a splash demonstrating their newly acquired swim techniques for Dr. Katz, the swim instructors, staff and peers. The program culminated with all participating youth receiving swim program completion certificates and enjoying a congratulatory cake and refreshments provided by Dr. Katz and her staff. Commenting on how the program was received by the boys, SEEDS Liaison Jamel Nedderman said, “At the beginning of the program some of the boys were reluctant to get into the water and now those same young men are the last ones to exit the water.”

Beginning in March of 2007, Dr. Katz provided girls in the Department’s SEEDS/Non-Secure Detention group homes with swimming instruction as part of the Department’s commitment to exposing the youth in its care to a variety of innovative programming and experiences. Dr. Katz’s swim clinic has enabled girls, and more recently boys, in the Department’s care to engage in positive athletic activity in a collegiate environment. The program is designed to inspire residents to stay physically and mentally active, as well as develop the aspiration to continue their education at the college level.

