

JDCAP “Rookie” Staff Person of the Year

Nominee Name: Avery Barnes
Organization: Chester County Youth Center
Start Date: October 10th 2016
Current Position: Youth Center Officer
Nominated By: Gary Blair

The Chester County Youth Center (CCYC) would like to nominate Avery Barnes for “Rookie” Staff person of the year for JDCAP. Avery Barnes has been with our center for almost 2 years and he has been a model staff for the youth in our care. Avery brings passion and authenticity to his position as Youth Center Officer and it shows in all his interactions.

Avery graduated from Penn State University in 2014, and is currently attending graduate school at St. Joseph’s University where he averages a 3.5 GPA. In 2016, he began his career as a part time Youth Center Officer at the Montgomery County Detention Center; working up to 40 hours a week. Avery started working part time at CCYC in 2016 as well, and served in both counties for several months with the hopes of becoming full time; many weeks working 65-70 hours. Avery often says that what kept him going was his strong belief in helping others, most “especially our youth to become better.” Not only does Avery try to be a mentor to the youth but admits that often he learns lessons from the youth in return. Avery states, “I believe that my passion is not only a gift but a duty.”

Avery is eager to learn and is always looking to attend trainings that will enhance his role with the youth in our care. Over the last year, Avery has attended several trainings in addition to our mandated requirements, which include Traumatic Brain Injury, Addiction 101, and certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid. Most recently, Avery was certified as an ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) instructor which is active shooter training; he is looking forward to training all CCYC staff in this essential training. Avery is constantly learning from senior staff and administration by asking questions and observing their actions in different situations.

Avery is now a full time staff at CCYC and has been promoted to an Acting Supervisor. He has taken time to train new staff and make himself available for any question and concerns that they may have regarding the youth and shift responsibilities. Avery is a member of the CCYC Intra-Policy team which helps with employee relations at the center. This group serves as a liaison between staff and the administration. They are actively involved in improving the work climate in the center with the goals of staff recognition and better communication. They are involved in nominating the Staff of the Quarter and also keeping administration in the loop as to ways to improve the climate in the center by answering the feedback in the suggestion box. Avery has shown tremendous leadership in a short time and is very deserving of this nomination for “Rookie” of the year.