

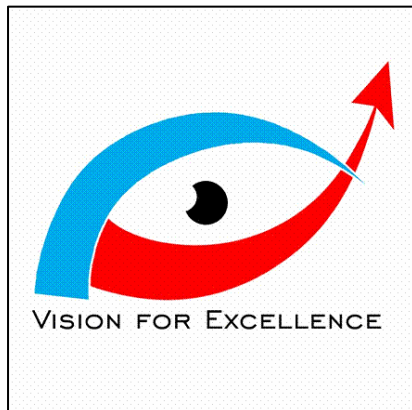


NEWS FROM:
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Duval County Students Report Today to Public Defender: *Vision for Excellence* Summer Youth Program

Jacksonville, FL (June 20, 2011): Through a unique partnership with the Police Athletic League of Jacksonville, Inc. (PAL), Public Defender Matt Shirk announces that for the second consecutive summer his office is conducting an enrichment program for young men. Starting today, students in the *Public Defender: Vision for Excellence* Summer Youth Program will begin the four-week camp designed by the Public Defender Office with a vision of ‘preventing our youth today from becoming our clients of tomorrow.’



FROM THE FOUNDER According to Public Defender Matt Shirk, “Our mission is to provide young people with educational resources, interaction with positive role models, self-esteem enhancing activities and community building opportunities which will result in good decision making skills and a desire to produce positive contributions to the community. Our goal is to spark a passion in our participants by exposing them to real life cases and situations the office deals with each day. We will work to assist the young people in creating long term goals and mature into productive citizens.” *Mr. Shirk is scheduled to give participants a welcome address at 1:00 p.m. today (June 20, 2011).*

WHEN AND WHERE Now in its second year, *Public Defender: Vision for Excellence* has more than doubled in capacity than in 2010. Nearly forty young men (10-14 years old) from Duval County will take part in the four-week enrichment program. They will arrive each weekday from [June 20 to July 15] at the Eastside PAL facility located at 1050 Franklin St. (358-6767). Over the course of the program, they will engage in a variety of educational and character enhancing activities such as workshops, guest speakers and field trips.

For more information about the program, please join our Facebook Community at:

Public Defender: Vision for Excellence or enter the address:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Public-Defender-Vision-for-Excellence/224493647567352>

The program administrators are Investigator Kendall Anderson and Attorney Hugh Wilkinson.
