



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Reuben F. Young, Secretary

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Award honors leader of Juvenile Justice Division for youth service

RALEIGH — An annual statewide award that honors individuals and organizations for distinguished service to North Carolina’s children and youths has been presented to a top executive in the N.C. Department of Public Safety.

The Donald R. Watson School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington presented a 2012 Razor Walker Award to Linda Hayes, chief deputy secretary of the Division of Juvenile Justice. Jimmy Pierce, executive director of Kids Making It in Wilmington, made the presentation at an April 16 awards ceremony at the school. He nominated Hayes for the honor.

“I have never met anyone who comes close to matching Linda Hayes’ lifelong commitment and dedication to helping every child she has ever met — and thousands she may never meet — in any and every way she can,” Pierce said.

After studying special education at Greensboro College, Hayes devoted herself to advocating for children’s issues and improving public safety. She later chaired the National Coalition for Juvenile Justice, a nonprofit association representing governor-appointed advisory groups on juvenile justice.

In 2009, Gov. Bev Perdue appointed Hayes secretary of the former N.C. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Prior to her appointment to Juvenile Justice, Hayes worked in the Dunn law firm of her husband, Gerald Hayes, and chaired the Governor’s Crime Commission for 15 years. The commission is the chief advisory body to the governor and the secretary of the Department of Public Safety on crime and justice issues.

The Razor Walker award derives its name from a Somerset Maugham book titled, “The Razor’s Edge.” It depicts the rewards of dedicating one’s life to altruism.

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RALEIGH: to altruism.<

In accepting the award, Hayes said the honor was about other people and organizations, too. She cited her family, department, division employees, faith community and the governor.

“[The award is] about a governor who gave me a golden opportunity in 2009 to run an agency that truly is about our future workforce, and whose lives we can change and who I will never give up on and pray for everyday,” she said.

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Caption for photo:

Linda Hayes, second from left, receives her 2012 Razor Walker Award. Presenting it are, from left, Kenneth Teitelbaum, dean of the UNC-Wilmington Donald R. Watson School of Education; Jimmy Pierce, executive director of Kids Making It of Wilmington; and Gary L. Miller, chancellor of UNC-Wilmington.