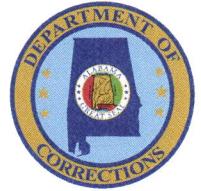




ROBERT BENTLEY  
GOVERNOR

# State of Alabama Department of Corrections

Alabama Criminal Justice Center  
301 South Ripley Street  
P.O. Box 301501  
Montgomery, AL 36130-1501  
(334) 353-3883



JEFFERSON S. DUNN  
COMMISSIONER

February 8, 2017

Mr. Drayton Nabers, Director  
Frances Marlin Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership  
800 Lakeshore Drive  
Birmingham, Alabama 35229

**RE: Letter of Support for Offender Alumni Association (OAA)**

Dear Mr. Nabers:

The Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) is pleased to support the work the Offender Alumni Association (OAA), 1000 24<sup>th</sup> Street South, Birmingham, Alabama 35205. Currently, the OAA serves three of our largest prison populations located at Limestone Correctional Facility, Bibb Correctional Facility, and St. Clair Correctional Facility. These facilities house more than 5,200 inmates. OAA has developed positive relationships with the Warden and staff of each facility.

OAA teaches inmates life skills that lead to positive contributions to their communities. The technique of using a peer to peer learning model with ex-offenders provides legitimacy and authenticity with the inmate population, a barrier that is difficult to overcome, at times, with traditional classes and programs. The realization that incarceration impacts the entire family, not just the inmate or former inmate, is an additional component of OAA, which lends itself to a "whole life" model. The curriculum is designed to enhance confidence and self-esteem in the offender or ex-offender, and not only offer assistance in identifying problem areas of re-entry, but also offering assistance in designing solutions. Finally, the OAA work in the community helps overcome re-entry barriers that often exist between the community and ex-offenders.

Jefferson County contributes more than 15% of the inmates to the ADOC, and given that most inmates return to the area which they were sentenced, support for OAA in Jefferson County would provide needed re-entry services and help lower recidivism. Any progress we can make towards reducing recidivism increases public safety and enhances the welfare of our communities.

The ADOC looks forward to lending our support to OAA and encourages others to do the same. If you have any questions, please contact Associate Commissioner Steve Watson at 334-353-9989.

Sincerely,

Jefferson S. Dunn  
Commissioner



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February 8, 2017

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