



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 4, 2025

NEW COUNTY JAIL ACCOMPLISHING BIG THINGS IN 2025

Uniontown, PA – Only a month into 2025, the new Fayette County Jail already has achieved a couple of big accomplishments, and warden John Lenkey said he expects more good things in the near future.

The jail project recently earned an American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania (ACEC/PA) Diamond Award in Category B, building and technology systems. Lenkey attended a gala in Lancaster in late January to accept the honor but was quick to credit others.

“The actual credit goes to TranSystems Corporation – the engineer that built it,” he said. “And the Fayette County Commissioners should actually get a lot of credit there.”

Lenkey said the jail also has been through its first state and federal inspections, and while the actual grades hadn’t been finalized, he was notified that “we did receive a very high score.”

One of the things at the jail of which Lenkey is proudest is the IGNITE program. An acronym for Inmate Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through Education, the program helps inmates reintegrate through educational opportunities, including GED classes.

“We’re about to have our first graduation of the year,” Lenkey said, noting the event will take place in mid-March. “I’m hoping to have a few GED graduates as well.”

Lenkey said female participation in the program is up, with nearly two dozen women enrolled.

“Before, it was all men, and it was difficult to get females involved,” he said. “But it seems like recently, with the efforts of my staff, we were able to spark some interest in females.”

Lenkey said his staff has been crucial in keeping the jail running on schedule – and, in fact, ahead of it. He said there is typically a great deal of transition when moving from an existing facility to a new one, and it can take time to complete everything.

“I was hoping to get everything in order within a year,” he said. “Thanks to all my staff, from corrections officers all the way up...I’ve got to give a shout out to all of my staff for accomplishing in six months what we thought would take a year. I’m very happy and proud of everyone that I work with.”

Lenkey also credited Sheriff James Custer, as well as the county commissioners and the prison board for lending him “such great support.”

He said he is focused on “rehabilitation, not just incarceration.”

“We’re trying to do a lot of good things, rather than just hold people there,” he said. “I’m really excited for the new year. We have a lot of big things planned.”

To learn more about the Fayette County Jail, including the IGNITE program, visit the Fayette County TV YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVVvk9P1qFOlsc8wRHLo97Q6y6ccyLHBK>.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.org.

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This communication is part of the Fayette County PR Initiative, which is funded through the Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) and Hotel Tax Grants in cooperation with the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, The Redstone Foundation and other partners. This funding has been designated for the continued promotion and marketing of Fayette County, PA.

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