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# Georgia Division of Family and Children Services holds 23rd Annual Celebration of Excellence to honor academic achievements of foster youth

*June 19, 2015*

**ATLANTA** —Georgia Division of Family and Children Services Director Bobby Cagle will honor the academic achievements of more than 250 of Georgia’s foster youth Saturday in a statewide graduation ceremony for graduates of high school and college and recipients of General Education Development diplomas.

Foster youth from across the state will be recognized in the 23rd annual Celebration of Excellence, an event designed to celebrate the educational accomplishments of Georgia’s youth in the face of adversity.

“These are the youth of our state who, despite all odds, are committed to a future filled with success,” Cagle said. “They deserve to be celebrated and cheered on into their next chapter.”

The Celebration of Excellence is the high point of a three-day Atlanta visit for teens transitioning out of the foster care system. Teens will also attend the Higher Education Institute, a two-day information and resource forum designed to teach the importance of professional etiquette, money management and understanding legal rights.

Saturday's celebration will be held Saturday, June 20, 2015 at 11 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia in Atlanta.

Keynote speakers for the event include former Falcons player and Atlanta radio personality Jamie Dukes and foster youth alumnus and author Julia Charles. During this year's celebration the NSORO Foundation will present five youth with college scholarships.

The event is sponsored by the Division of Family and Children Services Independent Living Program, Interfaith Children's Movement, the University of Georgia's Fanning Institute, NSORO Foundation, Orange Duffel Bag Foundation, Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia and numerous private businesses and organizations.

For more information on the Celebration of Excellence, go to [www.celebrationnofexcellence.org](http://www.celebrationnofexcellence.org).

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