



F.Y.I.

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DUANE MCKITTERICK EARNS DIRECTOR’S AWARD

Professional excellence and going above and beyond the call of duty is more the norm than the exception among the employees of the Department of Corrections. Each day, employees throughout the Department do some pretty amazing things both on and off duty. Whether it be saving a life, superior citizenship, service above and beyond all expectations, professional excellence or bravery in the face of tremendous adversity, MDOC employees continue to do their best! Here are some recent examples of their efforts:

Director’s Award for Professional Excellence

This year’s recipient of the Director’s Award for professional excellence is Duane McKitterick (*at right with Director Heyns*) of Gus Harrison Correctional Facility in Adrian, MI. The recipient of the Director’s Award is chosen from employees who have previously been chosen to receive a Professional Excellence Award.



Duane, a corrections officer at the facility, is dedicated to improving safety through electronically tracking everything from toxics and caustics to kitchen utensils and dangerous tools. He has become a valuable resource to his facility and the Department as a whole. His attention to detail and keen interest in improving processes has shown what the Department of Corrections can accomplish during this time of limited resources. Taking advantage of current technology, Duane continually expands his knowledge base, studying new literature, experimenting and conferring with others, often on his own time. He works endlessly to ensure that a system he has designed functions intuitively, no matter what skill level the end user may possess. If an user has questions, he will make every effort to explain a process and make modifications as necessary to address any issues.

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Duane has been in the forefront of database development. At the facility level, he has developed systems used for tracking tools, keys, caustics, staff overtime equalization and equipment, just to name a few. Every time another facility audits ARF's processes, the auditors walk away saying, "we want that." In fact, at least half a dozen facilities are currently using the electronic tracking database designed by Duane for tools, caustics or keys.

At the statewide level, Duane is in the final phases of development of the Inmate Tracking System and the Offender Meal Count system. The Inmate Tracking System has been shown to expedite count, allowing prisoners more time for programming and activities. The Offender Meal Count system has saved the Department thousands of dollars by reducing the number of prisoners doubling back for a second meal.

Throughout two decades with the Department, Duane has always presented a calm and professional demeanor towards staff and prisoners alike. His approach has diffused potentially dangerous situations within the prisoner population. His methods have served as an example to other corrections officers, helping improve their performance. His informal leadership greatly facilitated the team concept, reduced critical incidents and made the housing units a safer place to work for everyone.

Duane is a dedicated employee who deserves public recognition for his efforts. Michigan's prison system is not only more efficient and cost-effective because of Duane's projects, it's safer too. Congratulations again to Duane McKitterick for being selected as the 2012 Director's Award recipient.

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

In addition to the Director's Award, two other employees were issued the Department's Professional Excellence Award.

Michael Green (pictured below holding his award with Director Heyns), a Manager with Michigan State

Industries, received recognition for spearheading legislation that has allowed MSI to expand in a variety of areas. The legislation allows MSI to



engage in reclamation and recycling opportunities while opening up sales opportunities with non-profit organizations through third-party vendors. Additionally, Mike has been instrumental in implementing continuous quality improvement philosophies and processes through the COST (Continuous Operations Services Transformation) program.

Field Agent Kelley Gorham received the Department's Professional Excellence Award for completing her duties with dedication and enthusiasm. Gorham is a positive role model and an example to others on balancing the human element of the job with the discipline necessary to maintain the level of professionalism the Department expects. In one case, Gorham worked with a parolee who reported his mother as missing. Through an investigation with Michigan State Police, it was determined to be foul play. Gorham assisted the parolee, who had become a crime victim, in dealing with the case and working through the court process.

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AWARDS (Continued from page 2)

The Department is proud to recognize Michael Green and Kelley Gorham for their integrity, focus, dedication and service. Their efforts and the efforts of so many employees like them enhance the professional image and daily operations of the Michigan Department of Corrections.

VALOR

MURDER MYSTERY

In September 2011, Officer Michael Stachowicz of Ojibway Correctional Facility saw an unknown vehicle on his property. He questioned a person who was walking away from his neighbor's property and through his property. The person said he was photographing wood peckers, but he seemed uncomfortable and that made Stachowicz suspicious enough to write down the license plate number of the trespasser's car. The next day, police found his elderly neighbor had been murdered in her home. Stachowicz worked with police to identify the trespasser and was a key witness in the murder trial.



Stachowicz's efforts in confronting the murderer, collecting valuable information that helped police and testifying during the trial are commendable. His efforts helped lead to the arrest and conviction and they demonstrate an outstanding level of professionalism and bravery. For his actions, Michael Stachowicz has been awarded the Department's Valor Award.

CITIZENSHIP

A GIVING SPIRIT

Mary Lou Kraft of Macomb Correctional Facility (MRF) has received the Department's Citizenship Award for her selfless acts benefitting the facility and area citizens. Kraft has provided food and services to a number of organizations including local food banks, her church, employee appreciation events, fund-raisers, and benefits. One recent activity received national recognition. Kraft also organized MRF's "One Day With God" experience and the national coordinator gave her kudos, saying it was the most well-run event they had ever attended. For these efforts, Ms. Kraft has been awarded the Department's Citizenship Award.



PROTECTING PRECIOUS CARGO

Corrections Officer Stanley Shank of Carson City Correctional Facility was preparing for work on June 2, when he heard a loud crash outside his home. He responded to a two-car crash and found one injured driver of one vehicle sitting along the road side. The driver's child was still inside the car, but appeared unhurt. Shank entered the demolished vehicle through the rear hatch and rescued the child, placing her out of harm's way. He had his own daughter call 911 and returned to the crash to assist a neighbor who was helping the driver of the other vehicle. Shank then directed traffic until emergency personnel arrived. His actions that day earned him the Department's Citizenship Award.



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*AWARDS (Continued from page 3)***LIFESAVERS****NEAR DROWNING**

Roger Slavik, a Building Trades Instructor at Central Michigan Correctional Facility, received a Lifesaving Award for his actions in saving a person involved in an accident between a pickup truck and a train. The driver of the truck was thrown into the icy waters of a nearby river. With the conductor's assistance, the man was dragged from the water and Roger provided first aid until EMS arrived. His actions were mentioned in greater detail in the March 1, 2012 edition of F.Y.I.

**CAR CRASH**

Corrections Officer Lynda Weers earned a Lifesaving Award for her actions on March 30, 2012. After witnessing a car accident, Lynda, took decisive action, prying open the driver's side door of the damaged vehicle and providing first aid for the driver, who had a neck laceration and was bleeding severely. Lynda continued first aid treatment until EMS personnel arrived and took over. Without her quick thinking and decisive action, the injured woman may have died at the scene.

CHOKING HAZARD

On June 21, 2012, Officer Michael Ely was monitoring the chow hall at Ionia Correctional Facility when he saw a prisoner who appeared to be in distress. This prisoner stood and tried to leave the chow hall with his hands around his throat. Ely immediately noticed the prisoner was choking and approached the prisoner, providing several abdominal thrusts and dislodging the obstruction.



The prisoner was evaluated by health care and no further treatment was necessary. The prisoner thanked Officer Ely for saving his life and for his efforts, Ely was awarded the Department's Lifesaving Award.

AED NEEDED ON SCENE

On April 20, 2012, Food Service Leader Mike Nelson of the Tuscola Residential Reentry Program was working out at his local gym when he saw a man collapse. He had stopped breathing so Mike and another bystander started CPR while another person retrieved the gym's AED. The attached AED delivered three shocks prior to the arrival of EMS. The man was transported via life flight and treated for a life-threatening heart condition. Nelson received the Department's Lifesaving Award for going above and beyond in his tremendous efforts in saving the man's life.

**OFFICER ASSAULT**

On May 24, 2012, Officer William TenEyck of Marquette Branch Prison was working a gun post while a fellow officer was releasing prisoners from their cells. Upon opening one cell, the prisoner inside immediately began assaulting the officer, knocking him to the floor. TenEyck issued verbal warnings to the prisoner, who ignored him and continued hitting and kicking the downed officer. TenEyck fired a warning shot then aimed the weapon at the prisoner, fully intent on stopping the assault. The prisoner chose to return to his cell and the fellow officer was able to get to his feet and secure the cell door. For his outstanding efforts and clear dedication to his duties and the safety of his fellow officers, TenEyck was awarded the Department's Lifesaving Award.

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ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

On May 25, 2012, Officer Arnulfo “Gus” Ortiz of Chippewa Correctional Facility was making security rounds in the segregation unit when he noticed a prisoner had a sheet tied around his neck that was connected to a light in the cell. Officer Ortiz immediately called for assistance at which point the prisoner was removed from the cell. Officers Ortiz and Kevin Larson (*both pictured below*) quickly began administering CPR and the prisoner started breathing on his own. Officers Ortiz and Larson acted decisively during the incident and were recognized with a Lifesaving Award.



From L to R: Director Heyns, Officer Shawn Bennin, Officer Matt Oja, A/RPA Michael Curley, Officer Kevin Larsen, Officer Arnulfo Ortis, and Warden Jeffrey Woods.

HE'S NOT BREATHING!

On April 28, 2012, while making rounds at Chippewa Correctional Facility, Officers Shawn Benin and Matthew Oja (*both pictured above*) responded to a prisoner having a seizure in the recreation yard. The prisoner stopped breathing during their assessment. Officers Benin and Oja immediately started CPR and called for the AED to be delivered. The AED determined a shock was needed and it was delivered. The prisoner soon began breathing on his own and was placed in the care of qualified health care professionals for additional treatment. For their quick, appropriate, and professional actions in the line of duty, both officers received the Department's Lifesaving Award.

STOPPING A SUICIDE ATTEMPT

On May 9, 2012, Saginaw Correctional Facility Corrections Officer Kurt Tullar observed a prisoner hanging from his in-cell locker door with a sheet tied around his neck. The prisoner was unresponsive and Tullar ripped the sheet away from the locker door, lowering the prisoner to the floor. The prisoner began gasping for air and started breathing on his own. The prisoner was escorted to health care for additional evaluation and treatment. His quick actions saved the prisoner's life and earned him the Department's Lifesaving Award.

HELPING A COWORKER

Officer Cory Irvin and Officer James Jolley were instrumental in saving the life of their fellow staff member, Sergeant Andrew Ellison who was involved in a serious auto accident in January 2012 (See F.Y.I. 02-17-2012). For their tremendous efforts, both officers earned the Department's Lifesaving Award. Sergeant Ellison will soon be returning to work.



L to R: RPA Mike Curley, Director Dan Heyns, Officer Cory Irvin, Sergeant Andrew Ellison, Officer James Jolley and Warden Steve Rivard

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ACCIDENT RESPONSE

On March 21, 2012, Officers Jason Toogood and Christopher Cook were traveling home from work when they came along a car-motorcycle accident. The car was in a nearby field and the motorcycle was still in the roadway. Registered Nurse Teri Byrne arrived on the scene and assessed the condition of the motorist driving the car. The driver of the motorcycle was in a ditch and needed immediate assistance. After calling for assistance and assessing the victims, Byrne, Cook and Toogood started CPR and continued until EMS arrived on the scene and relieved the two officers.



L to R: Dep. Warden Tony Stewart, RPA Brice Curtis, Teri Byrne, and Director Dan Heyns.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

POT FREE PRISON

On May 11, 2012, Officer Dianna Stimpson of Cooper Street Correctional Facility was searching a visitor who was about to enter the correctional facility when she noticed an orange object concealed beneath the person's clothing. When the person realized that the contraband had been discovered, she began ingesting balloons filled with an unknown substance. While Stimpson called for assistance, the person began

choking on the objects. Stimpson delivered abdominal thrusts to the choking person until her airway was clear. She was transported to a local hospital where she admitted ingesting several small balloons filled with marijuana. Stimpson's professional conduct and attention to detail stopped dangerous illegal contraband from entering the facility and will likely result in the prosecution of the suspect. Stimpson's actions were rewarded with the Department's Meritorious Service Award.



HOLD THE HEROIN



L to R: RPA Mike Curley, Director Dan Heyns, Laura McCormick, Wendi Walworth, and Warden Steve Rivard.

When Laura McCormick and Wendi Walworth (pictured above), both Assistant Resident Unit Supervisors at St. Louis Correctional Facility, received an anonymous tip about a prisoner selling drugs in their housing unit, they took immediate action. In conjunction with the facility Inspector, telephone monitoring and mailroom staff a ploy was uncovered where a civilian would bring heroin into the facility in exchange for a payment made by accomplices on the outside. They let the plot unfold and on May 7, 2012, the civilian attempted to deliver five grams of heroin to the prisoner. Michigan State Police handled the criminal complaint. Because of their

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alertness and perseverance during the investigation, the introduction of dangerous illegal contraband was stopped and Walworth and McCormick were awarded the Department's Meritorious Service Award.

JUST BREATHE!

On May 22, 2012, Officer David Reece of Gus Harrison Correctional Facility observed a visitor slumped over in a visiting room chair. He called for assistance, and responded, finding the victim unconscious. After escorting her to the floor, he found that she had a pulse, but was not breathing. He gave several rescue breaths and the woman began breathing on her own. Reece monitored her condition until health care personnel arrived. Officer Reece's quick actions interrupted a potentially life-threatening situation and for his efforts he received the Department's Meritorious Service Award.

**STOPPING CONTRBAND**

Frederic Lockwood, the currently Deputy Warden at Lakeland Correctional Facility recently received the Department's Meritorious Service Award for his work in reducing and intercepting contraband. While working at Central Michigan Correctional Facility, Lockwood lead a team that was responsible for the interdiction of drugs and other contraband entering the facility. Not only did he use superior investigative skills, but co-developed and trained an intelligence network which included various facilities throughout the Department. Lockwood's efforts resulted in about 20 felony cases being referred to the Michigan State Police. Lockwood's leadership ability, excellent investigative work, and dedication to excellence have greatly increased the

safety and security of the worksite, reducing contraband and the associated incidents arising from the distribution of and prisoner control issues associated with contraband.

ORGANIZING A NEW OFFICE

Judy Rinck who has served admirably in Michigan State Industries for many years, was up for the challenge when the Department began developing the Office of Employment Readiness. Rinck (pictured here with Director Heyns) developed several initiatives to assist with the development of the new office, and she willingly assisted in all areas contributed to its success. Rinck had the experience and insight to recognize potential issues associated with the development of the new office and she worked tirelessly to overcome those issues. For her hard work, dedication, and professionalism, Ms. Rinck has earned the Department's Meritorious Service Award.

**HANDLING HIGH-PROFILE CASES**

Theresa Krzyzak is an expert in Interstate Compact cases. Her insightfulness and professionalism during several high-profile cases makes her an asset to the unit. She has helped the Department develop a positive rapport with numerous criminal justice agencies throughout the nation. For her conscientious work habits, devotion to duty and positive representation of the Department, Ms. Krzyzak has earned the Department's Meritorious Service Award.



MDOC EMPLOYEES' CHILDREN RECEIVE ASCA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) scholarship award is named in honor of Susan B. Hunter, former Chief of the Prisons Division at the National Institute of Corrections, as a lasting tribute to her commitment to the field of corrections. Each year, correctional systems throughout the nation nominate students who are the child of a current, retired or deceased employee who is or was a full-time employee of a corrections agency that is a member of ASCA. Applicants must be high school seniors entering college, undergraduates, or graduate students and must attend a 2- or 4-year accredited college or university to receive these scholarships.

The Michigan Department of Corrections has a proud tradition of supporting students through this scholarship process. This year, the Department has three children of current employees who have received scholarships through the fund:

Andrew Olson is the son of Thumb Correctional Facility warehouse/store worker Becky Neumann. Andrew was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to assist with college costs. He will be a freshman at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor this fall and is a graduate of Lapeer East High School.



From Left: Proud parents Mr. and Mrs. Neumann, scholarship awardee Andrew, Director Dan Heyns and Warden David Bergh.

Stephanie Onwenu is the daughter of Corrections Officer Stephen Onwenu of Ryan Correctional Facility. Stephanie will be attending Michigan State University this fall and will study Engineering. Stephanie received a \$1,000 initial scholarship from ASCA.

Ilesha Mitchell is the daughter of Field Agent Minnie Mitchell, who works in Field Operations Outer District Parole. She is a 2010 Renaissance High School graduate, and is now a junior at Bowling Green State University. Her major is Telecommunications and her minor is Broadcast Journalism. Her immediate plan is to attend graduate school after obtaining her Bachelor's degree. She eventually has career plans of reporting for the national broadcasting station CNN. Ilesha received a \$500 renewal scholarship from ASCA.



From Left: Director Dan Heyns, scholarship awardee Ilesha Mitchell and her mother Minnie Mitchell.



WWICJJ CONFERENCE IS SEPTEMBER 16-19 REGISTRATION IS OPEN

The 14th national Women Working in Corrections and Juvenile Justice Conference is set for September 16-19 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Corrections professionals from across the nation will come together to participate in training opportunities, networking experiences and professional growth and development for correctional personnel. The conference is being hosted by the Arkansas Department of Correction and Department of Community Correction and will be held at the Doubletree Hotel.



The conference is open to professionals from law enforcement, military and corrections organizations at the local, county, state and federal levels.

Dynamic speakers include Lori Pompa, founder and director of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program; Dora Schriro, commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction and Susan Hagen and Mary Carouba of the Women at Ground Zero Project.

If you have questions about conference registration, please contact Jada Lawrence, registration chairperson, at 870-267-6209 or e-mail jada.lawrence@arkansas.gov. For more information, please visit www.womenincorrections.info.

SAFETY IDEAS? DIRECT THEM TO THIS NEW COMMITTEE

The Department needs your assistance. A Security Enhancement Committee has been formed by Operations Administrator Edward Mize. This committee has been tasked to review and research security enhancement equipment for safer and more efficient facilities. The committee is chaired by Deputy Warden Tim Kipp from the Carson City Correctional Facility.



Committee members are:

- Tim Kipp, Deputy Warden, Carson City Correctional Facility - kippt@michigan.gov
- Dave Flack, CFA Physical Plant - flackd@michigan.gov
- Gary Keiffer, CFA Physical Plant - keifferg@michigan.gov
- Larry Brown, CFA - brownl@michigan.gov
- Laura Bowers, Inspector, Central Michigan Correctional - bowersl@michigan.gov
- Carl Tabb, Inspector, Womens Huron Valley Correctional - tabbc@michigan.gov
- Craig Smith, Inspector, Michigan Reformatory - smithc46@michigan.gov

Some of the areas the committee is focusing on are: Electronic Round Readers, Perimeter Lighting, Ballistic Vests, PPD's, Tasers, Cell Phone Detection and Radio Communication.

If you have any ideas to improve our work environment for security enhancement, forward your ideas to one of the committee members.



CTOS ASSIST WAYWARD CHILD

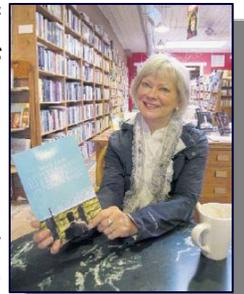
On August 16, 2012 at about 9:30 a.m., Officers Love and Ferdin, both from the Jackson Regional Transportation Unit, were traveling along Cooper Street when they spotted a small child wandering alone. As the child, who appeared to be about three years old, was about to step into the roadway, Officer Love directed the boy to stop. Love then escorted the boy to a nearby store and contacted local police. The officers stayed with the child, comforting him with a donut and some chocolate milk, until the police officer located the boy's mother. Quick thinking and decisive action by Love and Ferdin resulted in a positive outcome to what could have been a tragic situation.



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

FORMER DEPUTY WARDEN TOUTS NEW BOOK

Adria L. Libolt, a former Deputy Warden with the Michigan Department of Corrections, will be signing her new book, *A Deputy Warden's Reflections on Prison Work*, in Grand Rapids at 7 p.m. on September 14, where she will also speak. She will also be in the Lansing area at the Okemos Schuler's Books at 7 p.m. on September 20.



This book is a picture of prison life from the inside. It illustrates prison life as, at turns, exciting, surprising, distressing and often, amusing. Each day is different, and anyone who walks through a prison gate had better be alert. It tells of the small human dramas that play out daily among staff, prisoners, and others who enter this gated world. It calls the reader to see that justice begins by seeing each person, staff or prisoner as an individual, each with his or her own story. The passion of the author is to portray prison life as continuous with life in broader society. In prisons, we meet the same cast of characters, the same temptations, the same dangers, and the same rewards as on the outside. Rather than regarding prisons as separate worlds, we should regard them as extensions of the society in which we live.

You can order this book via phone (541) 344-1528, fax (541) 344-1506, or e-mail at: orders@wipfandstock.com.

MPF CLUB ADOPTS A HIGHWAY

Employees of Pugsley Correctional Facility (MPF) participated in the Adopt-A-Highway Summer Clean Up on July 19, 2012. The MPF Employee Club adopted a two-mile stretch of roadway near the prison facility and organized employee efforts to remove litter from the roadside three times per year. The Summer Clean Up resulted in a total of 8 bags of litter collected within two hours as well as discovering and subsequently reporting a safety issue of exposed wiring from an underground cable line.



L to R: Robert Gauthier, Gary Monroe, Jeff Reynolds, Kelly Smith, Karen Wright, and Jennifer Strange





REENTRY ROUNDTABLE

Reentry Roundtable is a continuing column that provides news, facts, and program successes within the prisoner reentry program.

OAKLAND COUNTY PRISONER REENTRY

The Oakland-bound prisoners gathered in the day-room Monday and Thursday afternoons at Macomb Regional Facility appear at first glance like any other group. But when one pays attention to how closely they listen to the woman leading their discussion and each other, something becomes clear: their minds have already “flown the coop.”

A highly-coveted employment seminar delivered by Career Directions, Inc. (CDI) to prisoners at MRF succeeds in focusing its attendees on their job search before their feet hit Oakland County. “Everybody in this classroom is leaving here in a matter of days or weeks. I want you leaving prepared,” said Barbara Seidel, owner and head counselor at Career Directions Inc., to her most recent group at MRF. “This is the time – now – to get ready.”

This is no cookie-cutter, let’s-all-create-a-generic-resume type class. This seminar is hard work, and Ms. Seidel gently but firmly forces each participant to take an honest look at what he’s truly got to offer an employer as he heads home. The stress of prison life is gone for an hour but is replaced by the real-life stress many Michiganders feel daily as they deal with the same job hunt struggle these men will soon face.

“This helps me; it prepares me,” said Reggie, who will soon head home. “We’re getting the chance to live our lives as free people, but it’s going to be very, very hard. We might as well realize that now and get our minds ready for it.”

Oakland Prisoner Reentry has funded CDI, a sole proprietorship, since 2006, to provide pre-release seminars inside MRF and, for a time, Huron Valley Women’s Facility. Macomb Prisoner Reentry collaborated with Oakland to fund the agency a couple years later and continues to do so. CDI also provides community-based services in Oakland, Macomb and the Thumb region.

“Barb has delivered an exceptional program to our inmates that has provided them with essential training and services for finding employment in today’s

tough job market. Ms. Seidel is passionate about what she does and has the energy and enthusiasm necessary to make the program a success,” said MRF Warden Ken Romanowski. “She is well respected by both the staff and the inmates, and we are so very lucky to have her as an in-reach program provider.”

One day in June, the MRF seminar focused on tailoring resumes, and Ms. Seidel began with the basics, sharing that email addresses should be professional or neutral rather than silly or offensive. She shared practical tips -- even discussing the outgoing messages that employers hear when making return phone calls.



Robert B. is hard at work in Oakland County these days, but his path to employment began at Macomb Correctional Facility with his Prisoner Reentry-funded teacher Barbara Seidel, of Career Directions Inc. He was placed in his current carwash position via Prisoner Reentry-funded agency JVS.

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**REENTRY** (Continued from page 11)

“You need to think of your resume as your promotional brochure,” Ms. Seidel stated, after a discussion about advertising in which she advised the participants to think of employers as their potential customers. “You are the product.”

Her seminar – based on a mixed lecture, group and individual exercise, lab and exit interview approach from a custom curriculum – invites discussion, homework and in-class written work.

Prisoner Reentry

Ms. Seidel taught the group to use “Prove It!” statements – changing general, passive semantics into strong, attention-grabbing bullet items. One could actually see the confidence build in Konstantinos, soon headed home to Oakland County, as others gave him positive feedback while he shared the specifics of his 17 years of experience as a car lot manager. There’s no “prison mentality” in this classroom! Participants support each other, and they jockey to be called on when Ms. Seidel asks for volunteers to share.

What began as a wave of hopelessness, as several discussed double-digit years of imprisonment and lack of prior employment experience, ended with the men realizing that their time inside has not been fruitless.

“Even if you’ve been incarcerated for the last 25 years, don’t think you don’t have skills, because you do,” Ms. Seidel reminded them. Together, they talked about the institutional activities that could translate as valuable to an employer: custodial maintenance, horticulture, blood borne pathogen and serve safe food certification.

“If you worked as a food tech here at Macomb, that relates directly to the community,” she said. “It matters!”

“This helps,” said Gregory, soon headed home to Pontiac after 17 years of incarceration. “Without this, I don’t think I’d be ready.”

This article was written by Donna Lassa, Oakland County Prisoner Reentry site coordinator.

BUREAUCRACY BUSTERS IS HERE! YOU CAN HELP!

Bureaucracy Busters is a tool of Good Government for leveraging employee ideas and innovations. It is a statewide action step in response to the employee engagement survey, while also encouraging service and process optimization from employees.

Bureaucracy Busters aims to engage employees in identifying and reinventing processes and programs in areas of employee engagement, customer service and cost savings.

Three categories of ideas are available for submission. To submit an idea, click the “Submit Your Idea” button and follow the instructions. Scroll down to view all ideas and vote for your favorites!

Categories are available for three weeks, one category being featured each week. After the categories close, new ones are opened for ongoing bureaucracy busting.

Upon closing, the top three ideas will be selected from each category and examined by department leadership and subject matter experts. Ideas that show potential for reinventing and improving services and processes will be implemented and recognized. Visit: www.mi.gov/Mildeas to start busting!

Direct questions, comments, and feedback to: Good Government Center of Excellence, (517) 335-4060, or via email at goodgovernment@michigan.gov.

