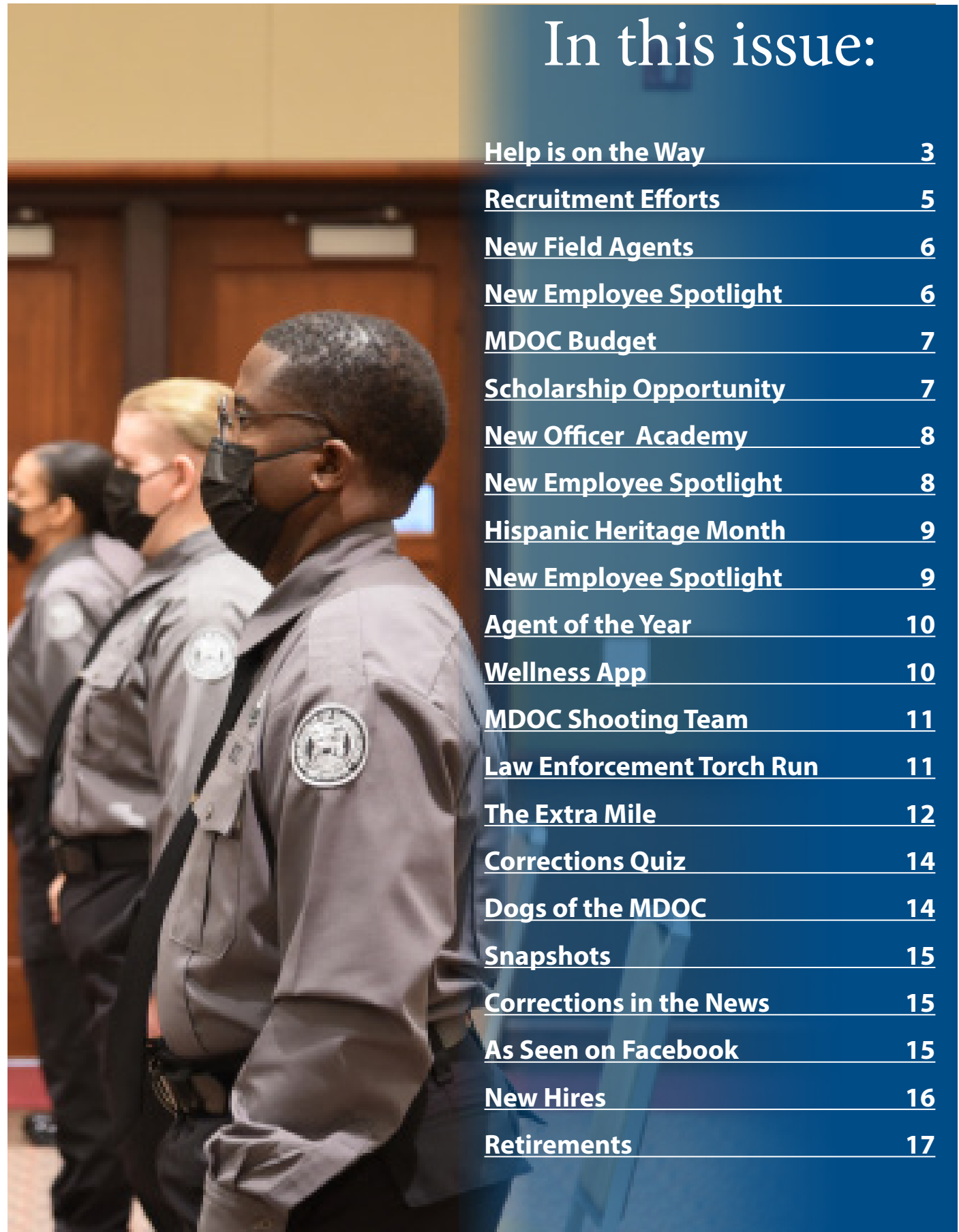


Corrections Connection





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Corrections Connection is a publication of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Story ideas, feedback and comments can be submitted to Brianna Brugel at BrugelB1@michigan.gov. Like MDOC on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

The image on the cover was taken by **Ray Closson**, a corrections Officer at Parnall Correctional Facility. For the chance to have your photo featured on the cover of the newsletter, email a high-resolution version of the image and a description of where it was taken to Brianna Brugel at BrugelB1@michigan.gov



The MDOC has developed a officer recertification program allowing previously PA-415 certified MDOC staff to volunteer as corrections officers.

The past 18 months have without a doubt been demanding for Michigan Department of Corrections employees across the state. Those working in correctional facilities have worked tirelessly to maintain the safety and security of our facilities during a global pandemic.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, FOA, ARU and Central Office and regional office staff picked up shifts inside of prisons to relieve facility staff. In a time of need, MDOC employees have come together, demonstrating their commitment

to the department and the State of Michigan. The Department is grateful for the hard work our employees have demonstrated. Director Washington recognizes the sacrifices staff have made and she along with a team of dedicated employees developed a plan to reduce mandatory overtime shifts for correctional facility staff across the state, allowing them more time for rest and time with their families.

“Our corrections officers continuously go above and beyond the call of duty, sacrificing time with their loved ones to maintain the safety and security of our facilities,” Director Washington said. “The department recognizes the importance of work/life balance and how stressful continued rounds of mandated overtime can be, which is why our team made it a priority to develop a plan to reduce mandates and give our officers more time doing the things they enjoy.”

The department knows and understands the toll this can take on individual employees and

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

their families and most importantly wants to convey that more help is on the way.

The Department has been working diligently on a multi-pronged approach to tackle these staffing issues. First, the MDOC has continued to hire new correctional facility staff across the state. Over the past five years, the MDOC has hired more than 3,100 new corrections officers. The new state budget the MDOC advocated for, and that was signed into law by Governor Whitmer, will allow the Department to hire 800 new corrections officers this fiscal year.

What We’ve Done So Far

The department’s recruitment team has been overhauled and added new positions, an outside marketing firm has been hired to assist in promoting job opportunities around the state, and more and more facilities are hosting recruitment events to bring in new staff.

Another important recent step that’s been taken at 14 prisons so far is to take housing units offline, which due to the decreasing prisoner population this past year and a half, we have been able to safely do.

This has led to the closure of a total of 38 housing units across the state. And these closed units have reduced the number of officer positions by 402, thus allowing for fewer positions needing to be filled and reducing mandates.

Next Phase of the Officer Recertification Program

Now we are on to the next phase of the plan, which will allow previously PA 415 certified MDOC staff to volunteer for overtime shifts as corrections officers, relieving officers of mandatory overtime shifts.

Understanding the urgency to provide immediate relief to correction officers, Director Washington assigned an Effective Process Improvement and Communication (EPIC) team to develop a process to allow MDOC employees to assist at facilities that are experiencing a high number of mandates.

The EPIC team collected and reviewed current policies, procedures, Michigan Compiled Laws (MCLs), travel regulations, approved PA-415 training requirements, MDOC Townhall minutes, Collective Bargaining Unit Agreements, and other various resources to develop a program to relieve officers from being assigned mandatory overtime. The team also met and consulted with Assistant Deputy Directors, Wardens, Union Representatives, members of MDOC’s Training Division, Legal Affairs,

Human Resources and conducted focus groups with frontline staff across the state, and meeting with a wide variety of staff before making their recommendation and implementing the changes to the Director’s Office Memorandum 2021-23R.

Safety and security remain the MDOC’s number one goal, which is why the EPIC team has developed a list of requirements for all volunteers, to ensure they have the resources and capabilities to perform the corrections officer job. Volunteers must be active MDOC staff members who have completed Officer Recruit Training and have achieved status as a correction officer, this includes custody staff from other facilities, Captains, Inspectors, Lieutenants, and Sergeants. Under this plan, most current and previously PA 415 certified MDOC staff will be eligible to sign up for voluntary overtime after they have completed and passed required training and have been recertified by Michigan Correctional Officer’s Training Council (MCOTC).

MDOC staff that wish to volunteer must be in a role classified at a level 13 or below. MDOC staff that qualify and apply for voluntary overtime must complete the PA-415 recertification process

QUICK FACTS

- 01 Those volunteering as corrections officers will be compensated time and a half.
- 02 Volunteers can work no more than 120 hours per pay period.
- 03 Reach out to your HRD to let them know you are interested.
- 04 Speak with your supervisor if interested in modifying your work schedule to help reduce mandates.

and must also be approved by the director and Training Council before being placed on the voluntary overtime equalization lists (OEL). In addition, volunteers will not be placed in a single-person assignment or a weapons-qualified assignment.

Those volunteering as corrections officers will be compensated time and a half at their current rate of pay. Volunteers can work no more than 120 hours per pay period, or 40 hours of overtime each pay period. MDOC staff members volunteering for overtime as a corrections officer are allowed to adjust their schedule if operationally feasible. Volunteers should speak with their supervisor if interested in modifying his or her schedule to help reduce mandates.

The MDOC knows how important work-life balance is and this is why the department found it crucial to implement these changes. Allowing active MDOC staff who previously worked in

facilities to volunteer will alleviate the burden and stress of mandatory overtime for those who work as officers in our facilities. However, if you are an officer who still wishes to work overtime, preferences remain in place for overtime assignments. Once all other options have been exhausted; volunteers will then be called to work voluntary overtime in lieu of a mandate. Any MDOC employee working voluntary overtime as a corrections officer cannot be mandated.

As we make this transition, we know that many of our staff may have questions. We encourage you to read the DOM and our FAQ sheet as well as send any questions you may have to your HRD or the ASKMDOC@michigan.gov inbox.

Recruitment Efforts

The MDOC continues its focus on corrections officer recruitment and retention. Below is a list of the MDOC's efforts to reduce vacancies across the department.

- Authorized to hire 800 new COs this fiscal year.
- More than 3,100 new COs hired over the past 5 years.
- MDOC recruitment team has added 4 new positions including a U.P. and social media recruiter.
- Facility and recruitment staff are hosting recruitment events, job fairs and facility open houses.
- Advertising includes - radio and newspaper advertising, social media micro-targeting and TV commercials to air during NFL and college football games.
- We are a new member of the Army Pays Program which helps transitioning military members find employment upon their retirement from military service.
- We are focused on hiring veterans and in the last three years we have hired 560 veterans.
- The MDOC recently had more than 130 Corrections Officers graduate from the Ken McKee Academy class in ceremonies held Dec. 1 and Dec. 15.
- The next academy begins on Jan. 10 in the Upper Peninsula and Jan. 24 in the Lower Peninsula.
- The MDOC hosted eight hiring events in the month of December.
- Earlier this month, Fox 47 covered a hiring event hosted by Charles E. Egeler Reception & Guidance Center and ABC 10 covered a hiring event hosted by Marquette Branch Prison.
- Warden Nagy and Correctional Officers Fitzpatrick and O'Connor from G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility appeared on JTV in Jackson to promote hiring events at his facility..
- The MDOC is hosting an additional recruit academy just for Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility recruits which begins on March 3. Those interested in working at WHV can also attend the academy beginning on Jan. 24.



NEW AGENT READY FOR CHALLENGE

New Agent Allen Black started working in probation in 2004 in drug treatment court at the district court level before making the switch to the MDOC in January of 2020. Agent Black was looking for a change of pace and is particularly excited to be working in the community. “I like being out in the community and



being out in the field,” said Field Agent Black. “How can you supervise the community when you don’t know what’s going on in the community?”

While Agent Black, who works at Macomb Probation Office, is not new to supervising offenders. The MDOC, however, has its differences which Agent Black had to learn in the midst of a pandemic. He is grateful for his former supervisor Tunga Hurst who served as a mentor to him, guiding him through his new position before she passed away in July.

One takeaway Agent Black took from the new agent school is the importance of encouragement when supervising offenders. “Most people want to do the right thing,” said Field Agent Black. “Sometimes people just need to be encouraged, while also understanding there are consequences for their actions.”

For those considering becoming a field agent, Agent Black explains the importance of adaptability.

“You won’t have any boring days, it’s always a new challenge,” said Field Agent Black. “Be conscious of the role you play in people’s lives, don’t take yourself too seriously, but realize people look at you as a piece of their freedom. Be firm and treat people how you would want you or your own family members to be treated.”

NEW FIELD AGENTS JOIN THE MDOC

The Michigan Department of Corrections welcomed 10 new field agents and field service assistant members in August after having to postpone the academy due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An oath of office ceremony was held virtually on Aug. 16. FOA leaders congratulated the graduates and wished them success.

New Field staff included:

- Allen Black – Macomb Probation Office
- Tracey Hunt – St. Clair Parole Office
- Jenna Helinski – Kent Probation Office
- Samantha VanderWagen – Muskegon Parole Office
- Justin Brandon – Macomb Parole Violation Unit
- Eddie Browder Jr. – Macomb

- Parole Violation Unit
- Darneca Crenshaw – Macomb Parole Violation Unit
- Robert Damico – Macomb Parole Violation Unit
- Amy Godlewski – Macomb Parole Violation Unit
- Michael Martin – Macomb Parole Violation Unit



MDOC Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

On Wednesday, Sept. 29 Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Senate Bill 82, the multidepartment omnibus budget bill for Fiscal Year 2022 which began on October 1. Funding for MDOC is contained within Article 2, for FY22 and Article 14, for supplemental needs for FY21. The total enacted FY22 budget for MDOC is \$2.1 Billion, which includes \$2.0 Billion in state General Fund/ General Purpose dollars.

Highlights of the Budget Include:

- A total on-going appropriation of \$21,166,100 for New Custody Staff Training. The department requested and the legislature approved an increase of \$7.3 Million to this line item. Total funding will allow for the training of 800 new officers during the fiscal year.

- A total investment in the Employee Wellness Programming line item of \$2.0 Million. The department requested an increase of over 60% from Fiscal Year 2021 funding reflecting strong growth within the program. In addition to core funding within this line item, the department will leverage

funding within other line items in the budget to continue to address employee wellness needs.

- Supplemental Fiscal Year 2021 funding of \$20.9 Million was requested by the department and supported by the legislature for a capital outlay appropriation to complete construction of the Department of Corrections training academy located in Whitmore Lake. Two phases of construction are already under way at the site and the final phase that includes the construction of a bunk house for new officer recruits is expected to be completed by July 2023.

- Overall the funding contained within the Fiscal Year 2022 budget provides for 13,484.4 FTEs and includes funding for operation of correctional facilities currently housing over 32,400 prisoners and field staff supervising over 42,200 felony probationers and parolees. The Michigan Department of Corrections is the state's second largest department in terms of the total number of state employees and total General Fund / General Purpose appropriations.

Davenport University Scholarship Opportunity

The MDOC is a MVAA Silver-Level veteran-friendly employer and, as a result of the department's status, Davenport University is pleased to announce that they are offering a new Veteran-Friendly Employer Scholarship for up to 50 employees across the MDOC. Both veteran and non-veteran employees are eligible to participate in this scholarship program.

If you've dreamed of pursuing a college degree — or obtaining a new one — this scholarship program can help make your dream a reality.

What you'll gain from the scholarship program:

- Silver-Level Veteran-Friendly Employer Scholarship up to \$4,500 per year for up to 50 MDOC employees, both veteran and non-veteran, that are new students to Davenport University
- A new path for career mobility and advancement within the organization
- Reduced financial burden to pursue education
- Opportunity for you to take charge of your

future with a degree or professional development

- Flexibility to help you achieve your goal with online and in-seat programs
- Support with access to student services & veteran-specific student services

Davenport University is a quality institution with more than 150 years of experience offering academic excellence and applied learning techniques to support a thriving workforce in our community.

As a MVAA veteran-friendly school, Davenport is committed to supporting the needs of veterans and military-connected students.

For more information or to apply for admission, visit davenport.edu/mvaa.





MDOC WELCOMES NEW OFFICERS

The Michigan Department of Corrections welcomed new corrections officers in September as members of the Dewayne Burton Academy class and in December as the Ken McKee Academy class. MDOC Director Heidi Washington and class namesake’s addressed the recruits and offered them words of advice during graduation ceremonies held on September 3 and December 1 in the Upper Peninsula and September 17 and December 15 in the Lower Peninsula. Graduating recruits earned awards for personal conduct and academic achievement. Award winners included:

- Upper Peninsula Academy
 - Josephine B. McCallum Award, Corrections Officer Dennis Jackson, Newberry Correctional Facility and Corrections Officer Mark Roy, Baraga Correctional Facility
 - Jack Budd Award, Officer Madelyn Doan, Kinross Correctional Facility and Robert Sherbrook, Newberry Correctional Facility
- Lower Peninsula Academy
 - Josephine B. McCallum

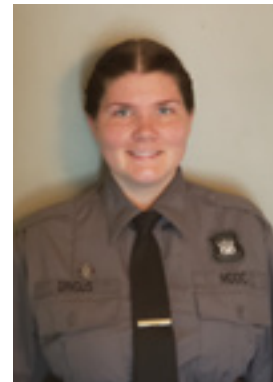
- Award, Officer Heath Garn, Lakeland Correctional Facility and Stephen Smirnes, Macomb Correctional Facility
- Jack Budd Award, Officer Cathe Davies, Cooper Street Correctional Facility and Ndehnie Asambang, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility

We also extend our thanks to the veteran and active duty service members of all four academy classes, including officers Jeremiah Denboer, Madelyn Doan, Austin Douglass, Caleb Simonson, Kendre Kelley, Caleb Franz, Heath Garn, Chet Trainer, Drake Bobay, Stephen Clemons, Gabriel Howard, Krisi Wildfong, Joshua Juarez, Rene Mireles, Stephen Smirnes, Brian Cummings, Hayden Kautz, Christopher Long, Austin Schultz, Dakota Jackson, Stephanie Rivett, Jeremy Smith, Rene Aldape, Joshua Dill, Ronald Grasmeyer, Donald Mass, Pete Hutson, Bryan May.



NEW OFFICER LOOKING TO LEAVE HER MARK

After completing her Criminal Justice degree at Baker College in 2016, Corrections Officer Felicha Dingus knew the criminal justice field was for her. However, she didn’t know what direction she wanted to go in until recently when a former classmate suggested a career with the Michigan Department of Corrections.



Officer Felicha Dingus

“I am excited to go into [the facility] to work. I like the idea of not knowing what each day is going to be like,” said Officer Dingus. “I like being on my toes and having to think fast.”

Officer Dingus, who joined the team at Muskegon Correctional Facility, enjoyed the officer recruit academy and found it valuable to work with other recruits and see how each recruit problem solved. “Teamwork is very important,” said Officer Dingus. “It is helpful to be able to see and talk to other recruits. Some recruits have different thought processes and it’s enjoyable to see what solutions everyone comes up with.” For those considering joining the academy, Officer Dingus stresses the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. “It is important to remain physical,” said Officer Dingus. “On top of thinking faster, you have to be able to move faster too.” Officer Dingus said she is proud of the career path she chose and is looking forward to seeing where her new role with the MDOC will take her and is hoping to come back to the academy as an FTO one day. “I really enjoyed listening to [the FTO’s] stories and I look forward to telling my own stories someday,” said Officer Dingus.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

September was Hispanic Heritage Month in Michigan, as part of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Michigan Department of Corrections recognized several MDOC employees including Rose Villegas. Villegas works as a Departmental Analyst



under Offender Success and has been with the MDOC for two years. In her role, Villegas works in offender education, including the facility schools.

Villegas believes that Hispanic Heritage month is an opportunity to celebrate her heritage with family and friends and many of those celebrations include enjoying traditional Mexican dishes

such as carne asada, homemade tortillas, fideo, and Mexican rice. “I sometimes allow myself to indulge in pan dulce and empanadas too!” she exclaimed. Villegas explained that she has always identified as Mexican American, however, she recently completed a DNA analysis kit and learned that she is both Mexican and Spanish. Villegas shared, “I found that to be a huge honor and it has allowed me to

appreciate both countries even more.”

Villegas hopes that the Hispanic/Latinx communities never give up on the American dream and that more Hispanic/Latinx people will hold positions of influence. “I have many people in my community that I look up to, but most importantly I look up to my parents” stated Villegas. Villegas’ father came to Michigan from Texas in the mid-1950s to work at Fisher Body in Lansing. He met her mother and began their family after marrying in 1959. Villegas’ admiration for her parents stems from the fact they both taught her hard work, dedication, and perseverance. She says, “My parents taught me the importance of education and being committed to work and family.” Villegas’ acknowledgment of the importance of education and hard work, distilled in her by her parents, is reflected in the work she does in Offender Success.

Villegas says, “I deeply admire both of my parents and spending time with family is extremely important to me.” Hispanic Heritage Month can be celebrated in many ways, however, for Villegas spending time with family and honoring the family that has passed before her has always been the most important part of her family’s celebratory traditions.

RETURNING OFFICER EXCITED TO BE BACK WITH THE MDOC

Corrections Officer Stephen Clemons may have just completed the academy, but he isn’t new to the Michigan Department of Corrections. Officer Clemons began his career as a corrections officer with the MDOC in July of 2002, working at both SAI and RGC. In 2016, Officer Clemons left the department when he had the opportunity to make his life goal a reality and open up a bowling center and restaurant. Officer Clemons operated the bowling center and restaurant for five years before it closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Upon its closing, Officer Clemons knew he wanted to come back to the department.

“I enjoyed my time with the department,” Officer Clemons said. “I missed the brotherhood with the staff and having the camaraderie with supervisors and staff, I am looking forward to getting the brotherhood back.”

Officer Clemons, who joined the team at Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center, expressed how he is excited to return to a job he is comfortable and confident in. His time with the department has given him life-long

friendships. As a former marine, he appreciates that he feels like he is a part of a team with the MDOC.

“In the department, you have the team concept,” said Officer Clemons. “When you have a bad day, there is someone there who can help pick you up and help you through it.

A piece of advice Officer Clemons offers to those who are considering joining the academy is to know what you are getting yourself into.



“Know your first couple of weeks in the academy will be hectic, stick it out and you’ll be fine,” said Officer Clemons. “Check yourself at the gate, know you are there to do a job and do it to the best of your ability. Continue to work with your [colleagues] and become teammates.”

Officer Stephen Clemons

BERRIEN COUNTY AGENT

SHERRON RIMPSON SELECTED AS MDOC'S CANDICE L. DUNN PAROLE/PROBATION AGENT OF THE YEAR

Sherron Rimpson is the Michigan Department of Corrections' 2021 Candice L. Dunn Parole/Probation Agent of the Year for his outstanding work ethic and his unwavering commitment to those under his supervision.

"Agent Rimpson embodies the mission of the department, making a positive impact on his colleagues and those he serves," Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington said. "He sets the standard for others within the department through his compassion and his patience. He goes above and



beyond in all that he does and I am honored to have him on our team." Rimpson, a Berrien County probation agent, began his career with the MDOC in 2008.

He serves as a mentor to staff and developed an

information resource binder that is used by everyone in the office, including leadership, local attorneys, and judges. Rimpson also goes to great lengths to assist those on his caseload, including seeking out and engaging employers to help offenders find and maintain employment, visiting their residence to help probationers address and overcome obstacles and ensure compliance with imposed conditions, along with speaking with family members to respond to any concerns they may have.

Rimpson was humbled to receive the award and expressed gratitude for his colleagues at the Berrien County Probation Office.

"I appreciate the recognition; however, this is just a testament of all the hard work that's done here in Berrien County," Agent Rimpson said. "This is a great team; I lean on everybody for assistance, this is an honor

for the entire Berrien County Probation team."

The award was named to honor the legacy of Candice L. Dunn, who was an Oakland County probation agent and was the department's 2017 Parole/Probation Agent of the Year. She was killed in a car accident the night she was recognized for the achievement at an MDOC Employee Appreciation Banquet.

Other nominees for Parole/Probation Agent of the Year included: Genesee County Parole Agent Randy Conrad; Ingham County Probation Agent Michael Gleason; Kent County Probation Agent Robert Howard; Oakland County Probation Agent Rachel Jarnagin; Chippewa County Parole and Probation Agent Nathan Marra; Office of Parole and Probation Services Agent Sara Miles; Jackson County Probation Agent Danielle O'Dell; Offender Success Administration – Women's Huron Valley Agent Margaret Rachal; Wayne County Parole Agent Tyrone Waddell; Lincoln Park Parole Agent Sarah Wald; Macomb Parole Agent Tanis Walker.

MDOC Offers New Wellness App

The Michigan Department of Corrections continues its commitment in supporting employee wellness. To strengthen and further this support, the MDOC has launched a confidential, customized wellness app which will be available to all MDOC employees, retirees, and their families.

Powered by Cordico, the leader in public safety wellness technology, the app includes a wellness toolkit addressing 60 behavioral health topics such as fatigue, suicide prevention and alcohol abuse, mental health self-assessments, and videos and guides on yoga, mindfulness, nutrition and more. App users will have the ability to connect directly to the MDOC Wellness Unit, Peer Support, the Employee Chaplain Program, as well as other specialized support resources. In addition, a Therapist finder offers contact information for local mental health providers who specialize in and have experience working with correctional professionals.

The app can be downloaded confidentially to access information. Posters and pocket cards with download information has been provided to your worksite.

MDOC DIRECTOR'S TEAM PLACES SECOND IN 83RD MICHIGAN POLICE PISTOL MATCH



On Sept. 16, the Michigan Department of Corrections Shooting Team Organization sponsored three teams that participated in the 83rd Michigan Police Pistol Match at the R.V. Gray Pistol Range in Jackson.

The teams competed in the Bullseye discipline and we are happy to announce that team one, comprised of Christopher Ward (Captain), Jacob Poindexter, Justin Cantu, Aaron Patrick, Eugene Sebaly and Jason Andres (Alternate) placed second in the Class AA competition.

MDOC PARTICIPATES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

Six MDOC staff members participated in this year's Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics of Michigan. Each member ran about 50 miles during the event, which started Sept. 13 in Copper Harbor and ended Sept. 17 in Detroit. Thank you to the six corrections professionals who participated in the event.





Michigan Reformatory Warden Greg Skipper presented Classification Director Jennifer Houck with a Teamwork Coin. In March, the Michigan Reformatory found itself without a Librarian or Library Technician. From March through July, Classification Director Houck assumed responsibility for both library positions while maintaining her own job duties. Houck worked without complaint and made sure the facility remained in compliance with the everchanging requirements of the library as COVID-19 restrictions were changed. Houck is a great asset to the Michigan Reformatory team, her commitment to the facility allowed library operations to run seamlessly until new library staff could be hired. Houck is currently using her new acquired knowledge to help acclimate the newly appointed librarian and library technician to working in a correctional facility library. We join Warden Skipper and the staff at RMI in thanking Classification Director Houck for stepping up and assisting the facility at a time of need.



Warden Melinda Braman at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility presented Acting Administrative Assistant Maurice Williams with a Good Government Coin for Customer Service. During his time as A/AA, Williams has received thank you notes from members of the population's family for his willingness to assist them through department protocols and requirements. We join Warden Braman and the staff at MTU in thanking A/AA Williams for his dedication and willingness to go the extra mile.



Marquette Branch Prison Warden Erica Huss presented Captain Bob Brown with a Warden's Coin. Captain Brown was nominated by his coworkers for his calm effective handling of any situation that arises. He inspires the confidence of both staff and supervisors alike. In the event that something serious happens, Captain Brown is the type of shift commander everyone would want to be in charge. We join Warden Huss and the staff at MBP in thanking Captain Brown for his excellent leadership.



MDOC's Education team attended the National Leadership Conference for the Correctional Education Association in Austin, Texas. Michigan was recognized for several awards including: Assistant Education Manager Robert McGeorge was awarded the Austin McCormick Award which recognizes someone who has demonstrated innovative best practices that can be replicated within the corrections field. This was specifically awarded due to all of McGeorge's work on the Vocational Village processes and model. Macomb Correctional, Thumb Correctional and Woodland Center Correctional School Principal Karmyn St. Andrew was recognized as the MDOC Teacher of the Year for creative teaching and leadership in the classroom. Chippewa Correctional, Newberry Correctional and Kinross Correctional School Principal Jody Burt was elected Secretary of the State Education Directors Council, in part for her work during the COVID-19 pandemic on the council as well as her election to President of the newly established Michigan chapter. Education Manager Heather Gay was elected and sworn in as President-Elect of the National Correctional Education Association as well as received an award for leadership of the other states Corrections Educational Directors.



On November 9, during a tour at Marquette Branch Prison with Attorney General Dana Nessel, Director Washington presented Corrections Officer Zoey Peterson with the Department's Valor Award in recognition of her actions on two separate occasions.

In April 2020, a level V prisoner intentionally plugged his toilet and asked to clean up the water with a mop and bucket. Staff secured his cell door in the open position and provided him with the mop and bucket. When Officer Peterson went to secure the prisoner back in his cell after he finished cleaning, he grabbed her and pulled her into the cell. She keyed her radio and continued to scream which alerted staff that quickly responded to the scene. An investigation into the incident revealed that the prisoner's actions were part of a much larger plot to escape involving several additional prisoners. Her quick actions fighting her way out of the cell and alerting her partner prevented both a hostage situation and another serious situation from developing.

In April 2021, Officer Peterson and her partner were releasing level V general population prisoners from their cells to go to the yard and a prisoner began assaulting her partner. Officer Peterson radioed for assistance and administered her Personal Chemical Agent to the prisoner and stopped the assault.

During both incidents, Officer Peterson showed courage, dedication and determination. Her ability to perform at a high level under a stressful situation is an outstanding demonstration of her commitment to her job and helping others in need.



Corrections Quiz

June/July Quiz Recap

Who is the MDOC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer?

What city is the department's new record retention building located in?

Send your answer to Brianna Brugel at BrugelB1@michigan.gov. The first person to answer correctly will receive a congratulatory shout out on MDOC social media, and the answer and winner will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

Answer: Jackson

Congratulations to **Ashley Bryner**, with CFA Classification, for being the first to answer the Corrections Quiz. Great job!

Dogs of the MDOC

An Upper Peninsula animal shelter welcomed 100 newborn puppies in the two months following an alleged puppy mill bust. Pictured is mom Macy who was the first to deliver a litter shortly after the MSP were able to remove her from the property. The pictures shows the incredible six-week transformation of momma and babies once they were moved into a healthy environment.

Many of the dogs who were seized were taken into the Dawgz Adapt prison rehab program, as most of the dogs had never experienced any sort of love or affection. Dawgz Adapt is a program for rescue dogs that are trained by inmates housed at Alger Correctional Facility. These dogs are considered less adoptable and may have extra behavioral challenges, or have a high risk of being returned to the shelter. The graduates leave house-trained and understand basic commands. They are also spayed or neutered, up-to-date on vaccinations and micro-chipped.

All of the dogs that were taken to LMF after they

were rescued from the puppy mill have since been adopted and a few of them have been showcased in The Dogs of the MDOC 2022 calendar!



The Dogs of MDOC 2022 Calendar

This customized calendar showcases furry friends from MDOC facilities across Michigan. With page after page of their happy faces on display, the calendar makes a great gift for any occasion.

The calendar is available at the special price of \$8.00 each. Proceeds from the sale of the calendars goes to the MDOC Employee Engagement Fund, which supports events for MDOC employees, as well as donations to employees and their families who have experienced tragedy or loss. No state funds were used in the printing of the calendars.

Order yours now by emailing EPIC Analyst Mary Martin at martinm43@michigan.gov with your name, telephone number and quantity desired and she will contact you to arrange payment. EPIC staff will make arrangements to be on site in GVP for staff to pick up. For all others, the calendars will be mailed to your home address.

SNAPSHOTS

A look at life around the MDOC



Members of the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility Recruitment Team spread the word about employment opportunities at WHV and the MDOC at the Saline Community Fair from Sept. 1 through Sept. 6.



Central Michigan Correctional Facility Assistant Deputy Warden Patrick Makara manned the grill for the facilities Veterans Day Cookout.



Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center staff showed team spirit for the Michigan vs. Michigan State football game.



On August 21, Team Candi's Crew made up of Pontiac Probation Supervisor Heather Wayne, Pontiac Parole Supervisor Anitra Harris, Pontiac Probation Agents Ahmed Bazzi, Shannon Wilson, Callie Moss, Thomas Martines, former Pontiac Probation Clerical Supervisor Clara Reid and Region Manager Brock Dietrich, participated in Walk Like MADD. Walk like MADD is MADD's signature fundraising event to help raise both awareness and funds to eliminate drunk and drugged driving. Team Candi's Crew is in memory and in honor of Candice Dunn who was an Oakland County probation agent and was killed in a car accident by a drunk driver the night she was recognized as the agent of the year at the MDOC employee appreciation banquet.

Corrections in the News

[Michigan Advance: How Michigan became a success story for prisoner college programs](#)

[Holland Sentinel: Prison education program from Hope, Western Theological Seminary get official approval](#)

[FOX 17: MDOC offers video option for prisoners attending funeral services](#)

[MLive: Prison inmates training dogs to help adoption rates in Bay County](#)

[Fox 17: Thousands of parolees receive IDs, driver's licenses through MDOC, MDOS partnership](#)

Spread the word about some of the great things happening at the MDOC and share these stories with friends, family and coworkers.

Seen on Facebook...



To see more, like the MDOC on [Facebook](#)

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

February and March New Hires

Beckmann, Tiffany	Food Services Supervisor, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Bernat, Macy	Accounting Assistant, Central Office
Bloom, Brent	Cook, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Bradway, Brittany	Registered Nurse, Alger Correctional Facility
Brugel, Brianna	Communications Representative, Central Office
Clement, Shelley	Licensed Practical Nurse, Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Collison, Kevin	Departmental Technician, Marquette Branch Prison
Contreras, Catherine	Occupational Therapist, Ionia Correctional Facility
Crain, Matthew	Cook, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Cunningham, Evelyn	Cook, Carson City Correctional Facility
Dalman, Macy	Accounting Assistant, Central Office
Eason, Toya	Qualified Mental Health Professional, Parnall Correctional Facility
Edwards, Janaka	Cook, Oaks Correctional Facility
Edwards, Kathleen	General Office Assistant, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Farley, John-Joseph	Cook, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Ferguson, Jason	Administrative Manager, Central Office
Fisher, Garret	Licensed Electrician, Carson City Correctional Facility
Florek, Stephney	Cook, Parnall Correctional Facility
Griswold, Benjamin	Cook, Oaks Correctional Facility
Halfman, Erin	Registered Nurse, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Hardrick, Tahachi	Corrections Officer, Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Hilts, Loren	Financial Specialist, Central Office
Hyvarinen, Johanna	Accounting Assistant, Kinross Region
Jensen, David	Equipment Operator, Central Office
Johnson, Brandi	Cook, Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Johnson, Charles	Trades Instructor, Womens Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Jones, Breanna	Qualified Mental Health Professional, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Lacott, Amy	Registered Nurse Manager, Ionia Correctional Facility
Longtine, Peter	Cook, Marquette Branch Prison
Masterson, Samantha	Employment Education Counselor, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Mcintyre, Diana	Registered Nurse Manager, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Melinowski, Kathleen	General Office Assistant, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Mutschler, Amanda	Cook, Ionia Correctional Facility
Neuhaus, Janelle	General Office Assistant, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Sanko, Billie	Food Services Supervisor, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Schneider, Mara	Accounting Assistant, Central Office
Scholten, Benjamin	Food Services Supervisor, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Seid, Toni	Registered Nurse, Baraga Correctional Facility
Strong, Tracy	Storekeeper, Marquette Branch Prison
Tuka, John	Storekeeper, Oaks Correctional Facility
Wallace, Shameka	Mental Health Social Worker, Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Wallis, Katie	Accounting Assistant, Kinross Region
Wentworth, Corrine	Cook, Carson City Correctional Facility

February and March Retirements

Altenberndt, David	Corrections Officer, Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Antes, Chris	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Baum, Robert	Maintenance Mechanic, Jackson Region
Becker, Nancy	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Beecher, John	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Berson, Brock	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Bolton, Denise	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Bridgewater, Julie	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Brokaw, Shirley	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Brunette, Gregory	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Brussow, Donald	Corrections Officer, Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Burson, Patrick	Corrections Officer, Detroit Detention Center
Bury, Claudia	Corrections officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Bush, Yolanda	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Caron, Glenn	Corrections Resident Representative, Marquette Branch Prison
Carr, Cathy	Buyer, Central Office
Castilla, Daniel	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Clem, Kathy	Accounting Assistant, Oaks Correctional Facility
Costa, Gary	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Crance, Christopher	Corrections Officer, Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Crittendon, Brian	Corrections Officer, Detroit Detention Center
Cullinan, Michael	Corrections Shift Supervisor, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Cummings, Kim	Field Agent, Field Operations Administration
Delosh, Linda	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Dible, William	Corrections Medical Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Dozeman, Kirt	Psychologist, Ionia Correctional Facility
Earley, Donald	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Eggleston, Richard	Corrections Medical Aide, Ionia Correctional Facility
Estes, Anna	Library Technician, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Evers, Brian	Assistant Deputy Warden, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Frankhauser, Marvin	Maintenance Mechanic, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Farthing, Jon	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Ionia Correctional Facility
Fitzgerald, Cynthia	Departmental Technician, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Fox, Peggy	Food Services Leader, Ionia Correctional Facility
Freeman, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Gallagher, Brett	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Gierke, Jeffrey	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Glikie, Gerald	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Goerge, Steven	Corrections Medical Aid, Ionia Correctional Facility
Gonzalez, Timothy	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Gornick, James	School Principal, Central Office
Guthrie, Nick	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Hamblin, Karen	Registered Nurse Manager, Parnall Correctional Facility
Harrington, Kenneth	Corrections Security Representative, Central Office
Haske, Amy	Corrections Program Coordinator, Oaks Correctional Facility
Henderson, William	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Hensley, Gary	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Herrmann, Rexlyn	Executive Secretary, Jackson Region
Hiatt, Robert	Maintenance Mechanic, Michigan Reformatory
Hill, Jennifer	Secretary, Chippewa Correctional Facility

February and March Retirements

Hill, Kevin	Corrections Officer, Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Howard, Jill	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Huhtala, John	Assistant Deputy Warden, Kinross Correctional Facility
Jacobson, Erik	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Jay, Dennis	Corrections Medical Aide, Ionia Correctional Facility
Johnsen, Brian	Corrections Security Inspector, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Jones, Lisa	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Thumb Correctional Facility
Jones, Melinda	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Kelly, L'Leta	Departmental Technician, Central Office
Kemp, Melinda	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
King, Darrin	Corrections officer, Detroit Detention Center
King, Melissa	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
King, Trent	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Koch, Ronald	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Ionia Correctional Facility
Koskinen, Dianne	School Teacher, Baraga Correctional Facility
Lachance, James	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Lalonde, Alan	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Laplaunt, Melissa	Registered Nurse Manager, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Lapointe, Heidi	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Lawson, Frank	Corrections Officer, Thumb Corrections Officer
Leask, Jennifer	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Lemke, Ladean	Library Technician, Michigan Reformatory
Longmire, David	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Madden, Joshua	Maintenance Machanic, Marquette Branch Prison
Martin, Dave	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Mathers, Tammy	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
May, Kevin	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
McConnell, Keith	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
McDowell, Randy	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
McGinn, Gerald	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Newberry Correctional Facility
McGough, Patrick	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Meiers, Patricia	Storekeeper Supervisor, Michigan State Industries
Mennenga, Mark	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Metro, Jennifer	Prison Counselor, Kinross Correctional Facility
Miles, Randolph	Equipment Operator, Central Office
Misewicz, Linda	Registered Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Moilanen, Rudy	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Moran, Terry	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Morgan, Anita	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Nehme, Debra	Registered Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Nelson, Bryon	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Newhall, David	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Nicholson, Bruce	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Oestrike, Thomas	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Ogle, Dorren	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Olojo, David	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Olson, Todd	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Packer, Cheryl	Dental Hygienist, Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Partee, Bernard	Financial Analyst, Central Office
Partlo, Angela	Field Agent, Field Operations Administration

February and March Retirements

Peak, Jerry	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Polom, Faye	Field Agent, Field Operations Administration
Rankin, Mark	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Rappley, Matthew	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Rath, Richard	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Redman, Earnest	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Ring, Mark	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Marquette Branch Prison
Riser, Marcia	Food Services Supervisor, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Rosendale, Victor	Storekeeper Supervisor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Rowe, Capios	Corrections Officer, Detroit Detention Center
Ruby, Larry	Corrections Program Coordinator, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Sawyer, Franklin	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Parnall Correctional Facility
Schafer, Steve	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Scnell, Cynthia	Departmental Technician, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Schott, Allan	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Schultz, Jamie	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Scott, Terry	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Sgambati, Frank	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Macomb Correctional Facility
Shaver, Pamela	Executive Management Assistant, Central Office
Soblaskey, Jamin	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Soules, Chris	Equipment Technician, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Sprunger, William	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Stein, Fred	Registered Nurse, Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Stephan, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Stewart, Pamela	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Terry, Marty	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Turner, Pamela	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Wang, Gail	Dentist, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Wethy, Kipp	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Wicklander, Paul	General Office Assistant, Central Office
Wilson, James	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Wyrick, Lisa	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Thumb Correctional Facility
Yaney, Leroy	Licensed Electrician, Jackson Region
Zachery, Marilyn	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility