

Corrections Connection





In this issue:

- Driven to Succeed 3
- Corrections Officer of the Year 6
- Officer of the Year Finalists 6
- Staff profile 7
- MDOC Budget update 7
- Survey Poster contest 8
- Survey Reminder 8
- Survey completion celebration 9
- Fire department training 9
- Facilitative Mediation Competition 10
- Warden Retirements 10
- Polar Plunge 11
- Podcast 11
- Employee Recreation Day details 12
- Around the MDOC 12
- The Extra Mile 13
- Corrections Quiz 16
- MDOC Cookbook 16
- Snapshots 17
- Corrections in the News 17
- Seen on Social Media 17
- New Hires 18
- Retirements 19



Corrections Connection is a publication of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Story ideas and comments can be submitted to Holly Kramer at KramerH@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 Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov.



Driven to Succeed

Program prepares parolees for careers in truck driving

When Amanda Conard's parole agent approached her about a new job training program that prepares participants for careers in truck driving, it seemed like fate. She had considered jobs in the field before, and had looked into training options just a week earlier, so she didn't hesitate to seize the opportunity. "Getting out there was an exciting idea," Conard said. "This is our chance to get out and start doing things the right way." She was one of the first to complete the Offender Success Truck Driving pilot program and land a job in the industry. The pilot began in 2016 as a partnership between

the Michigan Department of Corrections, Michigan Works!, Pinnacle Truck Driver Training, Inc. and west Michigan trucking companies. It aims to give qualified parolees a shot at a new career in truck driving.

Since then, a dozen parolees have completed the training and secured jobs with west Michigan trucking companies. The initiative has been well-received by participating employers and the goal is to eventually expand the program to the east side of the state, said Ryan Powell, workforce development specialist with the MDOC's Prisoner Reentry Administration. The department is working with eight trucking companies committed to hiring parolees who

"This is our chance to get out and start doing things the right way"



Tim Baker, vice president of operations at Pinnacle Truck Driver Training, Inc. demonstrates driving techniques at the school in Cadillac.

successfully complete the training program, and has reached out to additional companies to gauge interest, Powell said. An employer recruiting event was also held at Pinnacle’s school in Cadillac in November to give interested companies more information about the program.

Department staff and other program stakeholders have met quarterly to discuss the status of the effort and what changes could be made to make it even more successful, he said.

For trucking company ALTL, Inc., the program has already shown its merits.

“It’s been fantastic,” said Claren Lau, vice president of operations at ALTL. “We have an industry in need and a good group of resources coming through the corrections system who have paid their dues. This is an opportunity to give someone who made a mistake a second chance.”

Trucking has been among industries experiencing a hiring boom, according to a recent report by the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives.

It was projected to have 1,566 job openings annually for positions that could pay \$16 to \$23 an hour, according to the report. It is forecasted to see nearly 12 percent job growth through 2024.

With plenty of jobs to fill, ALTL, Inc. looked to a largely untapped pool of potential candidates.

In 2015, the company approached West Michigan Works! with an idea to train parolees for jobs in

truck driving – giving them a steady career in a strong industry. After meeting with the MDOC and other stakeholders, the pilot program was established. Parolees are carefully selected by Field Operations Administration staff for participation in the program.

Candidates must be successful on parole for at least six months, have no medical issues, no parole violations, clean drug and alcohol screens, and a valid driver’s license with no points. They also must be employed, complete all required parole classes, meet all federal commercial driver qualifications, show an understanding and commitment to being away from home for up to two weeks at a time and provide an explanation for why they want the opportunity to train for a career in truck driving.

The month-long training takes place at Pinnacle’s school in Cadillac.

While there, they first use a simulator to learn the basics of shifting and driving a truck in different conditions, such

as driving in different conditions, such



Amanda Conard, the first female participant to complete the training program and land a job, stands next to an ALTL, Inc. truck.

as winding, wet, hilly or snow-covered roads, said Tim Baker, vice president of operations at Pinnacle Truck Driver Training, Inc. Practice in the simulator transitions to practice in a real truck on school property, he said. Classroom instruction covers a range of topics including professionalism, staying healthy while on the road, and customer relations. Once participants complete training at the school, they will test for a Commercial Driver's License then move on to train with the trucking company that hired them.

"We want to be a positive influence in their lives," Baker said. "They have an opportunity to come out and have a job." A truck driving company must be committed to hiring the candidate once they complete training and pay for half the cost of the required schooling. The participant, who is required to be approved for a travel pass issued by the MDOC, pays for the other half of the training through

payroll deduction once they begin working and must agree to work for the company for at least one year.

Companies hiring participating parolees have vehicle tracking systems that allow them to locate their truck at any time, and companies have agreed to share that information, as well as travel

itineraries, with MDOC staff if needed.

Conard was hired by ALTL, Inc. in July and successfully discharged from parole in November. Now she's building her career as a truck driver, putting up to

3,400 miles under her tires each week.

"They keep us moving and that's all we ask for," Conard said. "It changes your lifestyle and it's a big adjustment, but it's an absolutely wonderful opportunity."

Participating parolees hired by ALTL have proven to be smart, loyal and reliable, Lau said.

"Driving is a unique job. You want someone who can think on their feet and be independent," Lau said.

"This is an opportunity to give someone who made a mistake a second chance"

For more information on the program, contact Community Coordinator Angela Sprank, prccsprank@gmail.com, (616) 902-5994, or Workforce Development Specialist Ryan Powell, PowellR@michigan.gov, (517) 335-6378

"We can offer them a career in an industry where they can earn a good living."

It has been a career that program participant Juan Martinez said changed his life.

Martinez said he never considered work as a truck driver until he heard about the program, and he saw it as a chance to build a future. "I didn't have a lot going on and I thought it was a good choice to take that opportunity," Martinez said. "It can be hard to keep your head above the water and move forward, especially after coming out of prison."

Martinez participated in the program's first training class and was hired full-time by ALTL in March 2016. It has allowed him to catch up on bills and get his own place to live.

"It's changed my life for the better," Martinez said. "I went from working dead-end jobs to a career. It gave me the opportunity to take care of the things I needed to take care of, move forward and leave everything else behind me."

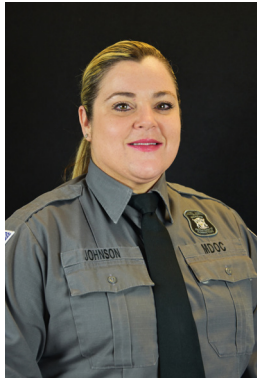
Hear more about the Offender Success Truck Driving Program on the next episode of the Field Days Podcast airing Feb. 28.



Claren Lau of ALTL, Inc. speaks to company representatives, program participants and other stakeholders at an employer recruiting event at Pinnacle Truck Driver Training in Cadillac.

Cary Johnson named 2017 Corrections Officer of the Year

When Cary Johnson joined the Michigan Department of Corrections in 1995 she didn't realize the job would become a career she was passionate about. "I can't imagine doing anything else," Johnson said. "I have a good team around me and amazing partners."



Officer Cary Johnson

Johnson, a corrections officer at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility in Jackson, has been named the 2017 Corrections Officer of the Year for her integrity and dedication to public safety. "Officer Johnson's steadfast commitment protecting Michigan's citizens and supporting her fellow officers makes our department proud," said MDOC Director Heidi Washington. "Her professionalism and outstanding personal conduct is widely respected by her colleagues, and I couldn't be more pleased to call her a corrections employee." Johnson has been a union leader at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility since 1997, and is currently the only woman serving on the Michigan Corrections Organization State Executive Board. "I have worked with Cary Johnson on the MCO Executive Board for many years," MCO President Tom Tylutki said. "She is an exemplary corrections officer and union leader. Recently, she has been

instrumental in MCO's efforts to raise awareness of PTSD among corrections staff. I commend her on her tireless service for MCO members.

"To the five finalists and other facility officers of the year – well done. MCO leaders thank all corrections officers for their dedication to Michigan's toughest job."

The Michigan Correctional Officers' Training Council, a group comprised of representatives from the MDOC, Michigan Corrections Organization, law enforcement and higher education, chose Johnson for the honor from a pool of five finalists.

Johnson said she was amazed to be selected Corrections Officer of the Year from a group of such outstanding officers.

Johnson also previously received the MDOC's Lifesaving Award for her efforts to help a prisoner in distress and has been commended for her role as a leader and mentor at her facility.

She said she advises new corrections officers to stay committed to learning as much as they can and find good mentors who will help them grow in their career.

Johnson has served on the Scholarship, Civil Rights and Mentorship committees for MCO and has participated in the Traumatic Incident Stress Management Team to assist with crisis situations. She is a member of the Training Committee at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility and has been involved in the Officer Dignity Initiative.

2017 Corrections Officer of the Year Finalists

Phil Allen, a corrections officer at Woodland Center Correctional Facility, joined the department in 1994 and is a member of the Emergency Response Team. His wealth of knowledge and experience has been an asset to new officers.



Karolyn Holden, a corrections officer at Oaks Correctional Facility, joined the department in 1997 and has earned the respect of her colleagues and prisoners. She has served on the EPIC Professional Development team and ran faith-based anger management programming.



John Klapish, a corrections officer at Saginaw Correctional Facility, joined the department in 1986 and is highly regarded by his colleagues, supervisors and prisoners for his integrity. He has been involved in developing components of the Incentives in Segregation program.



Sherlyn Wilson, a corrections officer at Thumb Correctional Facility, joined the department in 2002 and maintains an outstanding positive attitude and professional image. She is viewed by her peers as a leader at the facility.



Chippewa Correctional Facility library technician focuses on teamwork

In corrections, it takes a lot of planning and cooperation between staff in a number of areas for operations to run smoothly and effectively.

It is no wonder, then, that



Chris Henson

teamwork is one of the values of the Michigan Department of Corrections, and it is personified in Chris Henson, the

library technician at Chippewa Correctional Facility.

Henson has been involved in a number of projects that directly improved library services in her facility and across the state.

Among them are coordinating new library staff training, brainstorming on Electronic Law Library programming, and working with the Department of Technology, Management and Budget on legal writer software. Henson also created the statewide corrections library staff roster and worked with other staff on an automated general library system. Before joining the MDOC, Henson was a branch manager for a local bank.

“For various reasons I felt it was time for a career change,” Henson said. “I had taken the civil service test. The library position was posted so I decided to apply. I admit that there was apprehension on my part. Looking back, I know I made a good decision overall.” Once on board, Henson saw that there were rewards and challenges

to her role and took that in stride. In coping with the challenges, she said it helps to find the little rewards.

“I learn something new almost every day,” she said. “I enjoy the challenge of gaining knowledge and using this knowledge to help make the library run smoother.” Library programming is important, but it is supported by a foundation of custody and security.

Henson reminds new staff that custody and security is the first order of business and they should always remember where they are working.

“Be security conscious at all times and be aware of doings in your area of control,” Henson said.

“Alert custody of what you see and discipline those who are not following rules. Respect your co-workers’ positions. Until you do someone else’s job, do not judge them.”

Henson is involved in many community organizations. She is currently the treasurer for her church and assists in various fundraisers and community events.

She also volunteers for a number of groups including: Detour Food Bank and the local Fourth of July Celebration Committee.

A dedicated team will almost always get more done in a shorter time than one individual. Teamwork is essential for our collective success and is something that Henson demonstrates every day.

Story by Joe Bouchard, librarian at Baraga Correctional Facility

Proposed budget funds officer training, probation programming

The Michigan Department of Corrections’ proposed \$2 billion budget for the coming year includes support for the training of new corrections officers and programming for high-risk probationers.

Gov. Rick Snyder presented his recommendation for the fiscal year 2018 budget earlier this month. It included \$4.4 million in one-time funding for training new corrections officers through state-run academies.

The department plans to hire 550 corrections officers in the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1. That is expected to cover attrition, such as officers who retire or promote to new positions.

The recommendation also included \$1.5 million for a west side alternative to prison program, similar to the Wayne County Residential Alternative to Prison program operating at the Detroit Reentry Center.

The program targets high-risk probation violators with the goal to prevent them from continuing down a path that could lead to prison. Participants are placed in a secure setting for four to six months, where they complete cognitive and vocational programming.

The closure of an additional correctional facility was not included in the proposed budget.

[Click the Field Days icon below to listen to MDOC Legislative Liaison Kyle Kaminski discuss the proposed 2018 budget, or go to \[soundcloud.com/field-days\]\(https://soundcloud.com/field-days\)](#)



MDOC Employees Win Design Contest for Employee Engagement Survey

The Office of Performance and Transformation (OPT) hosted a contest to design the State of Michigan 2017 Employee Survey poster. The following Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) employees submitted creative and innovative poster designs for consideration:

- Allison Goodman, Ingham County Probation
- Annie Briere, Washtenaw County Probation
- Ben Verway, Carson City Correctional Facility
- Dawn McCune, Parole Board Case Preparation Unit
- Elizabeth Albright, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
- Frank Schipani, Oakland County Probation
- Jonetta Norris, Ionia Correctional Facility
- Laurel Marshall, Roscommon County Parole/Probation
- Lawrence Smith, West Shoreline Correctional Facility

Of the dozens of posters submitted from across the state, Word Processing Assistant Allison Goodman, Supervisor Annie Briere and Probation Officer Frank Schipani's poster designs were selected as finalists.

State of Michigan employees were asked to vote for their favorite design resulting in Annie Briere and Frank Schipani's posters being voted as two of the final four posters. Their posters have been printed and are posted in work locations throughout the state to promote the survey. Congratulations to Annie Briere and Frank Schipani, and thank you to all employees for sharing your creativity.

Above: Design by Frank Schipani
Right: Design by Annie Briere

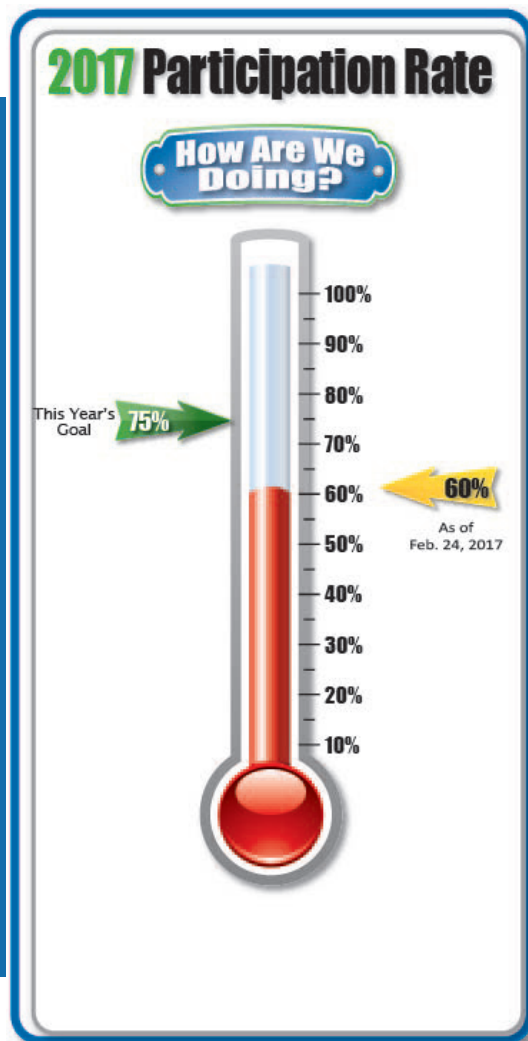


2017 Employee Survey
February 6 through 28



We're Almost There!

About 60 percent of MDOC employees had completed the Employee Engagement Survey as of Feb. 24, 2017



Share your thoughts today

There is still time to share your ideas for change in your workplace. The 2017 Employee Engagement Survey is open until Feb. 28 and allows you to provide crucial feedback in an anonymous way. Your opinions are important. Many changes were made across administrations as a result of feedback from past surveys, including the formation of new EPIC and efficiency teams, new communication initiatives, such as the use of Nixle, and greater emphasis on career development through leadership training, job shadowing and mentoring. Department leaders have also travelled across the state to field concerns and listen to staff on the front lines. Leaders hope all employees will take the time to complete the survey to have an even better idea of the issues facing department staff across the state. The survey is completely confidential and results are never associated with specific individuals. If you accidentally deleted your survey link, email keifferk@michigan.gov for a new one.

Staff find creative ways to celebrate survey completion

Michigan Department of Corrections staff at facilities and offices across the state have celebrated successful survey completion in some unique ways. Check out these examples.



Parole Supervisor Martha Greer challenged all of her staff members to take the survey and asked what they wanted in return as a reward for 100 percent participation. Their response? To watch her dine on crickets.



At Gus Harrison Correctional Facility, employees who complete the survey can enter to win a personalized cutting board, lazy susan, personalized folder with matching pen, or a large bird house made by Michigan State Industries.



Wrist bands will be passed out to Robert Cotton Correctional Facility staff and a chili dog luncheon was held on Feb. 16 and 17 with computers available for employees to take the survey.

Detroit Detention Center helps Detroit Fire Department train for emergencies

Earlier this month, about 47 members of the Detroit Fire Department visited the Detroit Detention Center for the first Tri-Annual Fire Department Familiarization Tour.

Fire department leaders said they were impressed with the overall operation of the facility and the professionalism of staff.

The multi-agency tour helped the fire department become familiar with the facility's physical plant, and helped the MDOC and Detroit Police Department practice coordinating a response to a fire emergency with an outside agency.

The tour highlighted what can be accomplished by blending resources together during an emergency.

The fire department's staff expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to become familiar with the facility's fire protection systems, fire hydrant and fire department connection locations, review of fire department entry procedures and any unique hazards or considerations, as well as building floor plans, locations of utility shut offs and storage areas.

Fire Department leaders commended Warden Ken Romanowski and staff on the overall operations of the facility and thanked Inspector Elvira Chapman for her assistance with planning and organizing tours at both the Detroit Detention Center and Detroit Reentry Center.



A Detroit Fire Department Truck parked outside a building at the Detroit Detention Center as part of the Tri-Annual Fire Department Familiarization tour.



Inspector Elvira Chapman and Fire Department Lt. E. Davis discuss the facility generator during the familiarization tour.

Prisoners compete with students in Facilitative Mediation Competition

The prisoners from Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility took on students from Michigan State University School of Law in a Facilitative Mediation Competition inside the prison on December 2, 2016. Fifteen students and fifteen inmates competed in three, two hour rounds of judged mediation competition. The mediators assisted participants in resolving two conflicts typically faced in the community and one conflict typically found inside a correctional facility. The goals in training the men as mediators is to improve their conflict resolution skills, decrease violence within the facility, prepare prisoners to bring those skills to their outside communities and to connect them with community based volunteer opportunities upon their release. Mediation & Restorative Services' Kate Kesteloot Scarbrough brought Brian Pappas, Professor of Law at MSU School of Law, to train 27 prisoners housed at Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility in General Civil Facilitative Mediation. The training, a rigorous 40 hour curriculum, is certified by the Office of Dispute Resolution for the State Court Administrative Office/Michigan Supreme Court. Michigan is known for having amongst the highest training standards for community mediators in the nation. Professor Pappas teaches the same curriculum to his second year law students.

The competition style and rules were consistent with those used at American Bar Association Representation in Mediation Tournaments. The MSU School of Law students have taken part in those competitions, most recently in England, Ohio and in March, 2017 at Michigan

State University. The judges for the competition were all volunteers who are trained as mediators themselves: Doug Van Epps (Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution/SCAO), Will Riley (Southeastern Dispute Resolution Services/retired MDOC), William Jack (CEO, Smith, Haughey, Rice & Roegge) Rebecca Sitterly (retired New Mexico judge, lawyer & paramedic) Will Wilson (Deputy Director, Disability Network West Michigan), Denise Ryan (Mediation & Restorative Services Mediator), Elise Elzinga (Legal Aid of West Michigan), Richard Balkema (Mediation & Restorative Services Mediator), Elsie Goins (Mediation & Restorative Services Mediator), Raymond Kostrzewa (60th District Court Chief Judge) and Sarah De La Rosa (Mediation & Restorative Services Mediator.) The facility coordinator was ARUS Pamela Watson. Although MSU School of Law won the competition, the winning individual mediator was prisoner Ming Ho, of Earnest C. Brooks. Other Earnest C. Brooks winners include: James Lienemann, Frank Burgess, Robert Leamon, David Moss, Carol White, Latorius Willis, James Sturdivant, Bruce Smith and Nick Brown. This is the second competition Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility, Mediation & Restorative Services and MSU School of Law have held inside the facility since 2014.



Wardens retire after decades of service

Two wardens recently retired following years of service to the Michigan Department of Corrections. Former Gus Harrison Correctional Facility Warden Paul Klee retired after spending 38 years with the department.



Former warden Paul Klee

He began his career in 1978 as a corrections officer at the State Prison of Southern Michigan. He also served as sergeant, lieutenant, inspector, assistant deputy warden and deputy warden. In addition, he was one of the original members of the Emergency



Former warden Jeff Woods

Response Team in Jackson. Sherman Campbell, who previously served as warden of Carson City Correctional Facility, has been named warden of Gus Harrison Correctional Facility following Klee's retirement.

Former Chippewa Correctional Facility Warden Jeff Woods retired with 28 years of service to the department. He began his career as a corrections officer in 1988 and was named warden in 2008. He was considered an innovator and a leader at one of the state's largest correctional facilities. Connie Horton is currently serving as acting warden in his place.

Taking the Plunge

Corrections employees dive into icy waters for a good cause

It's a time of year filled with shivering, chattering teeth and big smiles as MDOC staff leap into icy waters to help Special Olympics athletes. A total of 42 employees from Adrian, Coldwater, and Jackson, as well as Emergency Response Teams and Special Alternative Incarceration staff joined together to participate in the Clark Lake Polar Plunge on Jan. 28. The event raises money to support the Special Olympics. About 230 people overall faced the frigid water and 20 degree air temperature for a good cause. Prior to the event, several fundraisers were held. At Lakeland Correctional Facility, a Taco Bar fundraiser netted \$380, and casual days brought in \$210. A fundraising website that was set up also raised a whopping \$1,835. The facility raised a total of



Staff participate in the Lansing Polar Plunge on Feb. 12.

It was the first year the parole and probation offices participated in the event and wore 1980's-inspired gear.

Employees including Saginaw Correctional Facility Outpatient Mental Health Chief Angela Childs, Social Worker Ashley Brault, Corrections Officers Ricardo Caberra and Harry Cunningham, A/Deputy Warden Jim Zummer, Warden Tom Winn and Parole Agent Fabian Lavigne, also participated in the Polar Plunge in Saginaw.

The Saginaw Correctional Facility team raised \$1,933 for Special Olympics.

Polar Plunge events across the state provide more than \$1 million annually to the Mount Pleasant-based Special Olympics Michigan, which is funded entirely by donations.

Story by MDOC communications student intern Skylar Green



Director Heidi Washington with Clark Lake Polar Plunge participants.

\$2,425 overall, and Lakeland Sgt. Christina Tagett was honored as a top individual fundraiser for bringing in \$1,630.

The Clark Lake Polar Plunge raised \$31,000 for local athletes.

The Ingham County parole and probation offices also battled the cold to benefit the Special Olympics. Team MDOC raised \$2,535 for the Lansing Polar Plunge on Feb. 12. Five supervisors and nine agents participated including Clint Auer, Jamee Babbitt, Monica Bailey, Melanie Cascaddan, Doug Clark and Todd Gronowski from Ingham Parole and Bill Allen, Amy Bonito, Nayatt Castelein, Kellie Doerr, Abby Gainey, Mike Gleason, Derek Scott and Jackie Straub from Ingham Probation.



Outpatient Mental Health Chief Angela Childs, Social Worker Ashley Brault, Officer Ricardo Caberra, A/Deputy Warden Jim Zummer, Officer Harry Cunningham, Warden Tom Winn and Parole Agent Fabian Lavigne at the Polar Plunge in Saginaw.

What is a Podcast?



Did you know the Michigan Department of Corrections has its own weekly podcast? New episodes air every Tuesday and are available through the [iTunes](#) podcast

app or the [SoundCloud](#) app. Episodes are also available on the department [website](#). It is another way we are sharing positive stories and important updates with you.

Get your questions answered about the department on Field Days by tweeting using the hashtag #AskFieldDays or by sending them to either Chris Gautz or Greg Straub.

Employee Recreation Day details announced, logo and activity suggestions needed

In a little more than four months, Michigan Department of Corrections employees will meet for a day dedicated to games and team building. Employee Recreation Day will take place Friday, July 14 at the Riverwood Country Club in Mount Pleasant, Mich. The Effective Process Improvement and Communications (EPIC) Employee Engagement Team is also in search of a logo that embodies this exciting event, as well as suggestions for activities. Activities that have been suggested so far, include:

Billiards, basketball, bowling, softball, poker, euchre, bag toss, canvas painting, scrapbooking and golf. The team is still looking for input on other activities employees would enjoy participating in during the recreation day event. If you have a suggestion, or a creative design for the new logo, please send it to the EPIC mailbox at MDOC-EPIC@michigan.gov with Employee Recreation Day in the subject line. The deadline for activity suggestions is Tuesday, Feb. 28 and the deadline for logo submissions is March 24.

Around the MDOC

Fundraisers organized for Lakeland Correctional Facility Officer

Employees at Lakeland Correctional Facility have set up a GoFundMe.com page to help raise money for Corrections Officer Bradley Brandenburg, who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

Brandenburg joined the MDOC in September 2015. Money raised through the GoFundMe account will help cover medical bills and other expenses for Brandenburg and his family.

To donate, go to www.gofundme.com/officer-brandenburgs-medical-fund.

Fundraiser organized for family of parole board analyst

Central Office will hold a bake sale, and a GoFundMe.com page has been established to help support the family of Parole Board Suspend Analyst Carol Pierce after her husband was diagnosed with serious medical issues.

The bake sale will be held from 8-10:30 a.m. on March 1 at Central Office in Lansing. Other donations can be made through the fundraising website, <https://www.gofundme.com/helping-steve-pierce-while-at-mayo>

2017 Corrections Officer Training Academies to begin in April

The next training academy for new corrections officers will be held April 10. The department is planning to hire up to 159 new recruits for the April class to help fill positions across the state.

Additional training academies are also in the works for June and August.

Applicants must meet educational requirements and pass a background check, physical fitness test and physical exam before being accepted into the training academy.

After completing eight weeks of training at the academy, new officers move on to two months of on-the-job training at their assigned facility.

For more information about the hiring process and job qualifications, or to apply, [click here](#).



The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



Department of Corrections employees were honored by Gov. Rick Snyder for their role in de-escalating a prisoner disturbance at Kinross Correctional Facility in September. The employees were critical to the success in controlling the disturbance, and many were on the front line. Staff displayed great courage, skill, expertise and professionalism during the incident and helped bring it to a close without any injuries to staff or prisoners. Those in attendance at the recognition event included Corrections Officers William Bonnee, Robert Mills and Troy Pace, Capt. Alan Makela, retired Capt. Dan Colvin, Deputy Warden Jerry Harwood, Warden Duncan

MacLaren, Correctional Facilities Administration Assistant Deputy Director Lloyd Rapelje, Budget and Operations Administration Deputy Director Jeri-Ann Sherry, Correctional Facilities Administration Deputy Director Ken McKee and Director Heidi Washington. Sgt. Bill McKay and Corrections Officer Joe Johnston were also to be honored.



Hillsdale County Probation Agents Sandra Monahan and Ellie Langston in May witnessed a near head on collision, in which a car failed to yield to oncoming traffic and was struck by a school bus.

Langston was at the intersection when the accident occurred and helped the driver of the car out of the vehicle before it burst into flames.

She and Monahan, who saw the accident from her office, immediately ran to provide aid to anyone who was injured and to ensure children got off the bus safely.

Langston received the department's Valor Award and Monahan received the department's Citizenship Award for their quick actions to assist those involved in the crash.

In September, Corrections Officer Konnie Smith was working in a housing unit at Saginaw Correctional Facility when she found a prisoner unresponsive in his cell. The prisoner was not breathing and was turning blue.

Officer Smith radioed for assistance from health care staff and she and Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor Jodie Anderson began CPR. Corrections Officer John Andrews arrived with a defibrillator and assisted staff.

Corrections Officers Richard Piazza and William Griffin helped remove the prisoner from his cell and CPR was continued until health care staff arrived. Registered Nurse Cheri Bordeau, Dr. Sharon Oliver and Physician Assistant Joshua Buskirk administered Narcan to the prisoner and continued to provide aid until emergency medical responders arrived.

Smith, Anderson, Andrews, Piazza, Griffin, Bordeau, Oliver and Buskirk received the department's Lifesaving Award for their efforts.



The Extra Mile continued...



Corrections Officer John Alcodray was working in food service in March at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility when he noticed an inmate who was turning red in the face and appeared to be in distress.

After confirming the inmate was choking, Alcodray performed abdominal thrusts which dislodged the obstruction, opening up the inmate's airway and allowing him to breathe.

His immediate reaction to the situation earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.

While working at Pugsley Correctional Facility in May, Corrections Officer Jesse Swartz noticed a prisoner was in distress and immediately called for assistance. Facility staff responded to his call and Swartz began providing emergency medical aid to the prisoner, until the prisoner's breathing and pulse stabilized. His professional integrity and actions to help the prisoner earned Swartz the department's Lifesaving Award.

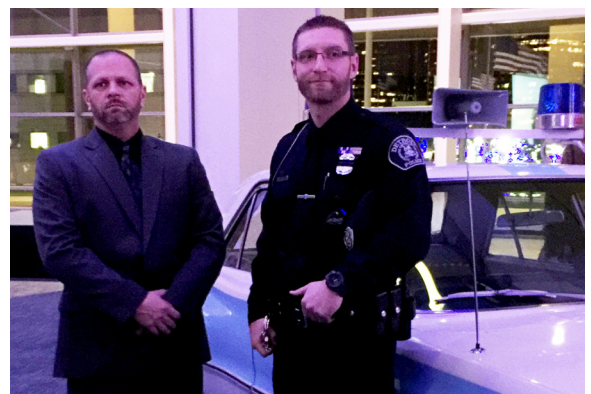


When a call came over the radio in Feb. 2016 for all law enforcement to respond to an officer down in Bay City, Absconder Recovery Unit Investigator Chad Bellinger did not hesitate to respond.

Two Bay City police officers were involved in a live shooting situation and one officer was injured. Both were pinned down by gun fire. Bellinger wasted no time on the scene and helped Michigan State Police rescue the officers using a Bearcat vehicle to get the officers out of the line of fire. Once safely inside the vehicle, Bellinger began to treat the injured officer, who was later transported to a trauma center.

Bellinger's brave actions and outstanding conduct earned him the department's Valor Award.

In February 2016, Absconder Recovery Unit Investigator Jon Hugle and Detroit Police Department Officer Robert Stankiewicz were involved in the investigation into an armed robbery. Hugle and Stankiewicz set up surveillance on the suspect. When Stankiewicz approached the suspect, the suspect pointed a gun at him. Hugle pulled up in his vehicle, drawing the suspect's attention toward him and the suspect fired shots at Hugle striking his vehicle. The suspect then ran inside the building, creating a barricaded gunman situation. Hugle directed responding units to establish a perimeter, while pinned down outside the building. The suspect was later taken into custody. The Detroit Police Department awarded Hugle and Stankiewicz with the Medal of Valor for their actions.



The Extra Mile continued...



Diane Suppes, of Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility, received the Meritorious Service Award for her positive involvement with an important case.

Suppes was the initial breakthrough for the case as she discovered disturbing letters between an inmate and the mother of a handicapped teenage girl. The letters involved making plans for the prisoner to molest the girl with the mother’s consent.

Suppes notified her supervisors immediately and a joint case involving multiple departments was opened against the inmate and the mother. Suppes’ assistance with the case resulted in both the inmate and the mother being convicted.

Angela Childs, unit chief for outpatient mental health care at Saginaw Correctional Facility, received the Symbol of Teamwork coin for her work with Special Olympics Michigan. She helped raise more than \$1,800 in a year for the organization.



Detroit Reentry Center Capt. Tommy Snipes received the Symbol of Leadership coin for his efforts to encourage, engage and empower staff at the facility and help prisoners prepare for reintegration into the community.

Snipes has spent more than 30 years with the department and works hard every day to lead by example. He maintains a positive demeanor and has spent his personal time learning more about parole, probation and the violation process in order to help educate staff and better understand this offender population.

He understands the need for providing the offenders at the facility with an opportunity to participate in programming and how important it is for the future of the MDOC to create a culture that lends itself to learning, education and developing job skills so when the offenders leave, they are prepared to make a positive change.

Ben Verway, a maintenance mechanic at Carson City Correctional Facility, received a Symbol of Teamwork Coin for submitting a design for the Employee Engagement Survey poster contest.



Quarles served as Regional Prison Administrator, Deputy Director of Field Services

Denise Quarles started her career with the department in 1971 as a probation agent at the Detroit Records Court. At the time, she was one of two women in the state to supervise a probation caseload of male offenders. She became a parole agent in Detroit in 1974 and was promoted to community services liaison in 1976. She was named supervisor of the Northeast Corrections Center in Detroit in 1977 and was responsible for the supervision of 75 inmates and nine employees. She was the first female supervisor of a corrections center for men in the state, a job she held from 1977

to 1979. In 1979 she became assistant deputy warden at Marquette Branch Prison. In 1981, she administered the Riverside Reception Unit, then went on to head probation services in Wayne County. In 1983, she became warden of Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility, then was named warden of Riverside Correctional Facility in 1985 and warden of G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility in 1987. In 1988, she was named deputy director of the MDOC Bureau of Field Services, succeeding Perry Johnson. At the time, the department supervised about 35,000 probationers, 5,000 parolees and 2,500 offenders in transitional housing. She went on to serve as Regional Prison Administrator from 1997 to 2002. She formerly served as president of the Michigan Corrections Association. Following her work at the MDOC she became International Director for Zonta International and a board member for the Michigan Women’s Studies Association.



Send us your favorite recipes

Do you have a recipe for cookies everyone craves, or a dish that is a family favorite? Now, you can share them with your colleagues for a good cause. The MDOC EPIC Wellness Team is collecting recipes for a new cookbook that will feature staff-submitted dishes. The cookbook is expected to be part of a fundraiser to support future Employee Recreation Day events, the State Employees Charitable Campaign and Harvest Gathering. To send in your recipe, [click here](#) to fill out the recipe form and email it to MDOC-Wellness@michigan.gov.



Corrections Quiz

January Quiz Recap

In what year did the MDOC Honor Guard form?

Question: Name this figure in Michigan corrections:



Send your answer to Holly Kramer at KramerH@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: Denise Quarles

Congratulations to **Patricia Willard**, a registered dietician at Ionia Correctional Facility, for being the first to correctly answer the January Corrections Quiz. Great job!

Snapshots

A look at life around the MDOC



Saginaw Correctional Facility and Saginaw Animal Control are partnering to train rescue dogs and help find them homes. The dogs are socialized and trained in obedience by prisoners.



The LINK, a teen center in Newberry, donated two boxes of yarn and two pattern books to the Newberry Correctional Facility prisoner crochet class. Prisoners in the class made a number of items with the donated yarn, including hats, mittens, scarves and headbands. The items will be distributed to local residents in need.

Corrections in the News

[Forget the cold: Hundreds leap into lake to raise money for Special Olympics](#) — Jackson Citizen Patriot

[LSSU Hockey Team Plays Game Against Chippewa Correctional Facility Inmates](#) — 9&10 News

[Turn the tassel: Prison inmates are closing in on Calvin College degrees](#) — WZZM TV 13

[Michigan inmates will face 5-year felony if they throw food, bodily fluids at prison staff members](#) — WDIV TV

[New signs will inform inmates of penalties for “dress out” assaults on corrections staff](#) — Corrections.com

[Gus Harrison prison warden retires](#) — Adrian Daily Telegram

[New research suggests ways to improve ban-the-box employment policies](#) — Crain’s Detroit Business

[On the hunt for parole absconders](#) — ABC 12

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](#)

December New Hires

Berry, Christopher	Registered Nurse, Carson City Correctional Facility
Brady, Jonathan	Field Agent, Ingham County
Camp, Kara	Pharmacy Assistant, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Carlin-Aguilar, Siria	Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Carswell, Jennifer	Word Processing Assistant, Court Services Unit
Cuellar-VanHouten, Marisela	Clinical Social Worker, Parnall Correctional Facility
Feistel, Gianetta	Clinical Social Worker, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Gilmore-Thomas, Tavia	Secretary, Detroit Reentry Center
Gimenes, Barbara	Registered Nurse, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Harris, L.	Clinical Social Worker, Marquette Branch Prison
Johnston, James	Registered Nurse, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Kahari, Tapiwa	Clinical Social Worker, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Keller-Jerome, Jill	Registered Nurse, Carson City Correctional Facility
Kemutambah, Otis	Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Kinney, Spencer	School Teacher, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Korson, Barbara	Registered Nurse, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Krasnoselsky, Rebecca	Registered Nurse, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Larson, Tracy	Departmental Technician, Baraga Correctional Facility
Lavacque, Kyle	School Teacher, Newberry Correctional Facility
Londo, Lisa	Dental Hygienist, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Lucas, Angel	Field Agent, Bay County
Maskell, Makayla	General Office Assistant, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Patrick, Mandy	Storekeeper, Parnall Correctional Facility
Phelan, Lora	Registered Nurse, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Richardson, Titiana	Clinical Social Worker, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Risner, Megan	Licensed Practical Nurse, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Rushford, Jamie	Departmental Technician, Newberry Correctional Facility
Saph, Jay	Registered Nurse, Detroit Reentry Center
Scharer, Lloyd	Institution Chaplain, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Stowers, Kathleen	Registered Nurse, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Stuard, Lora	Registered Nurse, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Trudell, Lauren	Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Valdez, Daniel	Clinical Social Worker, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Zimmerman, Christopher	Psychologist, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility

December Retirements

Angel, David	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Bailey, Edwin	Corrections Shift Supervisor, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Ballor, Thomas	Corrections Security Representative, Absconder Recovery Unit
Beecher, Lori	Corrections Program Coordinator, Carson City Correctional Facility
Blumhardt, John	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Bollheimer, Mary	Word Processing Assistant, Jackson Regional Health Care
Buczek, Kelly	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Burrus, James	Institution Chaplain, Parnall Correctional Facility
Church, Kingsley	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Colvin, Daniel	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Kinross Correctional Facility
Cryslar, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Czinder, Craig	Administrative Manager, Training Division
Davern, Keith	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Deshields, Laverne	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Detroit Reentry Center
Dykehouse, Stephen	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Fairbanks, Amy	Departmental Specialist, Litigation
Ford, Eric	Storekeeper Supervisor, Detroit Reentry Center
Francis, Shirley	Clinical Social Worker, Macomb Correctional Facility
Gauze, David	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Gordon, Nina	Manager, Eastern District Probation
Gransden, Keith	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Guile, Troy	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Hawkins, Audie	Corrections Shift Supervisor, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Hengesbach, Warren	Storekeeper, Ionia Region Correctional Facilities
Hill, Larry	Registered Nurse Manager, Marquette Branch Prison
Keiffer, Gary	Physical Plant Division
Langschwager, Mary	Dental Hygienist, Oaks Correctional Facility
Lewis, Jeffrey	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
MacDowell, Randy	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
MacKenzie, Gregory	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Marvin, Margaret	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Lakeland Correctional Facility
McCrary, Norris	Psychologist, Detroit Reentry Center
McIntire, Bonny	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Nicewander, Donna	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Onwenu, Stephen	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Peet, Bradley	Resident Unit Manager, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Penn, Jan	Departmental Supervisor, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Pierce, Robert	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Purtell, Wayne	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Raleigh, Bill	Manager, Midland County Parole and Probation Office
Rathod, Prakash	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Riley, Gregory	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Rintala, Nancy	Executive Secretary, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Rockey, Daniel	Field Agent, Ionia County
Roth-Ciesielski, Cheryl	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Rozine, Mark	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Rozzell, Nowana	Corrections Field Services Assistant, Detroit Metro Parole Office
Ryans, Sammie	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Saldana, Arturo	Corrections Transportation Officer, Ionia Region Correctional Facilities
Schaub, Ronald	Licensed Electrician, Parnall Correctional Facility
Smith, Cynthia	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Smith, Glenn	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Sontag, Steven	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Spangler, Tammy	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Spivey-Barnett, Geneva	Field Agent, Detroit Metro Parole Office
Switzer, Bruce	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Valdez, Maria	Word Processing Assistant, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Washington, Marilyn	Manager, Lahser District Probation Office
Wilbur, Christine	Departmental Technician, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Wilson, Debra	Departmental Supervisor, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Woods, Darren	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Woods, Jeffrey	Warden, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Worden, Denise	Administrative Manager, Ionia Region Correctional Facilities

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success