

Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall strive to be a global leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support responsive evidence-based practices aligned to law-abiding and accountable behaviors. Safety and security shall be a priority component of this responsibility as it pertains to staff, victims, citizens, and offenders.

Correctional Employee, Nurses and Teachers Week - May 1-7

Each year, the first full week in May is set aside as a time to recognize the commitment that correctional officers and employees bring to their difficult and dangerous line of work. This week has also been set aside as Health Services Employee, and Teacher Appreciation Week.

In light of all we have been going through these past few years, I believe it is more important than ever to recognize the innumerable contributions of the men and women of the Connecticut Department of Correction who serve with distinction in one of the most demanding of professions. We have faced many unbelievable challenges over the past few years, but because of your hard work and dedication, we have also experienced many accomplishments.

Somehow it does not seem fair to try to squeeze the appropriate amount of recognition you deserve into just one week. I think you deserve at least an entire month of official recognition. Please know, not a day goes by that I am not truly grateful for the outstanding staff that comprises the Connecticut Department of Correction.

Each and every day, you place yourselves in harm's way to maintain the safety of the public, fellow staff, and offenders. Not only do you protect society from those unwilling or unable to abide by its laws, you also feed them, educate them, provide them treatment, and heal them. You also work cooperatively with community and religious organizations, as well as state and local authorities to help ensure the successful reintegration of offenders into society.

Corrections Week is about each of you, and I hope you are as proud to be a part of this Department as I am. It is my honor to serve as the Commissioner of this great Agency, which comes with the privilege of working alongside such an outstanding group of dedicated men and women.

On behalf of myself and the entire Executive Team please remember - not just for this week, but throughout the entire year - the good work that you do, is not only essential, but also truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Angel Quiros
Commissioner

February 17, 2022
through
May 6, 2022

Distributed bimonthly
to 5,500 staff
and via the Internet
throughout Connecticut
and the nation
by the
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A Special - Almost Normal - Graduation

The recent graduation ceremony of Pre-service Class 286 at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development was another sign of things getting back closer to normal.

Unlike the previous two pre-service graduations, which were regrettably cancelled due to a spike in the Covid-19 positivity rate, the Class 286 graduation was held as planned, on April 13, despite a few concessions to the ongoing pandemic.

The ceremony included many of the traditional elements such as the Honor Guard and Bagpipe Band, and Correctional Enterprises Manager Ray Munroe belting out the National Anthem, the group was split into two

graduations in order to maintain proper social distancing. In addition, the graduates were only allowed to invite two guests (per graduate) to witness the event in person. Fortunately, additional family members, and loved ones were able to stream the ceremony on their computers and smart devices.

The highlight of the first graduation was the presence of members of Victor E. Harris' family, including one of his sons, Austin, who presented the award (named after his father) for outstanding instructor to Lieutenant Joseph Fortin.

Prior to his unexpected death while at home back in October of 2000, Victor E. Harris was a winner of the Outstanding Instructor Award.

Austin Harris, who serves as a Police Officer for the Town of Windsor, spoke of his father's dedication to and belief in the importance of training.

The presentation by Victor E. Harris' son, was a touching reminder that the Department of Correction is literally and figuratively a family, and the fact that what we do today can have an impact long into the future.

In total, Pre-service Class 286 consists of a total of 106 graduates, made up of primarily Correction Officers.

The members of Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta groups took part in the first ceremony, which started at 9:00 a.m., followed by groups Echo, Foxtrot, Golf, and Hotel, whose ceremony



Austin Harris presents the Outstanding Instructor Award named after his father, Victor E. Harris.

kicked off at 11:30 a.m. The members of this class who are not Correction Officers (all of whom took part in the first ceremony) include a Chaplain, a Commissary Operator, Six Food Service Supervisors, a Parole Officer, a Plumber, and a School Teacher.

As with each Pre-service Class, The Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development acknowledges the value of exceptional Trainees, and officially recognizes and commends them for service above and beyond the normal scope of their duties through the presentation of the PRIDE award.

The PRIDE award is presented to a trainee from each group who best represents the Department of Correction motto of PRIDE by demonstrating the values of: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, and Excellence. Trainees receiving the award were chosen by their class managers and the Pre-service Captain.

Easter Egg Hunt

The grounds of the Department’s training academy looked more like a daycare facility during the Easter Egg Hunt held on April 23, sponsored by the Department’s Employee Wellness Committee.

More than 50 DoC parents and their children took part in the festivities, which included a hot breakfast, an Easter egg hunt, and a special visit from the Easter Bunny. In addition, there were a variety of activities for the children, from chalk drawing on the pavement, to a spoon and egg race.



**Correctional Transition Instructor Carol Meglio
with her daughter Nadia.**



The guest of honor.

Judging from the smiles on the children’s and parents’ faces the event was a huge success, and with any luck, the Easter Bunny will make a visit to the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development next year.

Penguin Plungers

Congratulations to Lieutenant Casey Ramos and Correction Officer Daniel Steinberg for successfully participating in this year’s Penguin Plunge challenge to benefit Special Olympics Connecticut.

Representing the Hartford Correctional Center, they were “freezing for a reason” as they ran into the frigid waters of Crystal Lake, adjacent to the Polish Falcons Nest in Middletown on February 26, 2022.

The Penguin Plunge is the largest grassroots fundraiser to benefit Special Olympics Connecticut. Participants (“Penguins” / “Plungers”) raise funds to run into the chilly waters of Connecticut. The Plunges take place in five locations throughout Connecticut at lakes and beaches across the state. The events take place throughout the winter season, from January through mid-March.

Funds raised go to support over 13,000 athletes who participate in Special Olympics Connecticut’s year-round training and competition in 27 sports.

The Middletown event raised more than \$40,000 alone.



**Lieutenant Casey Ramos
and Correction Officer
Daniel Steinberg.**

Special Presenter for Class 286

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Around the Cell Block

The recipients of the PRIDE award for Pre-Service Class 286 are:

- ALPHA Group:** Correction Officer, Zelig Dawson
- BRAVO Group:** Correction Officer, Benideliz Canales-Salgado
- CHARLIE Group:** Correctional Plumber, Edwin Flores
- DELTA Group:** Correction Officer, Jazline Gonzalez-Lorenzo
- ECHO Group:** Correction Officer, Maritza Rosenard
- FOXTROT Group:** Correction Officer, Sean Reardon
- GOLF Group:** Correction Officer, Marquita Youngblood
- HOTEL Group:** Correction Officer, Nicholas Taverney

KANSAS - The Kansas DoC is now in the playing card business. The department is set to release decks of playing cards that include information about unsolved crimes in Kansas. The CT DoC has been distributing Cold Case Playing Cards since 2010.

OKLAHOMA - An Oklahoma correctional officer who survived an inmate stabbing him in the neck with a pencil is being honored for his valor after the attack.

Sgt. Dustin Willbanks was awarded the 2021 Oklahoma DoC Medal of Valor Award for his courage after the attack on Oct. 8, 2021. He is also receiving national acclaim for his heroism and professionalism.

NEW YORK – New York City Mayor, Eric Adams said Wednesday he may need to hire more correction officers at Rikers Island because he wants to fire those who are still technically on the job — but not physically at work because they’re faking sickness or injury.



Members of Pre-service Class 286 are sworn in.

After all of the awards were presented, the next order of business was to officially swear in the members of the graduating class. Usually, the responsibility of the Commissioner, the oath was administered by Deputy Commissioner William Mulligan, due to the fact that Commissioner Quiros was unable to attend the graduation exercises.

Once they were sworn in, Chaplain Jose Robles delivered the benediction. Then, led by the Honor Guard and Pipe Band, the graduates proceeded out of the auditorium as the newest members of our correctional family.

Please join Commissioner Quiros, The Executive Team, and all the facility administrators in wishing all the graduates of Pre-service Class 286 the best of luck in their new careers.

**Total CT DOC
Supervised
Population
on
May 6, 2022
13,033
On May 6, 2021
the population was
12,922**

Special Olympics Awards Winners

The staff of the York Correctional Institution were honored not once, but three times at the recent 2022 Connecticut Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit the Special Olympics kickoff. The event was held at the Foxwoods Resort Casino's Grand Pequot Tower Ballroom on March 22, 2022. A portion of the kickoff event is dedicated to recognizing the fundraising efforts of the past year.



Members of the York Correctional Institution with one of the three awards they received from Special Olympics CT.

In 2021, the York CI staff raised an impressive \$14,000 through various fundraising efforts including the facility's first annual golf tournament. The impressive 2021 fundraising total earned the York facility three awards, including: 2021 Top ten contributors – coming in seventh overall; the 2021 top DoC facility; and a Level of Excellence award for donating more than \$10,000.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) is the largest public

awareness vehicle and grass-roots fundraiser for Special Olympics. Known honorably as Guardians of the Flame, law enforcement members and Special Olympics athletes carry the "Flame of Hope" into the Opening Ceremony of local competitions, and into Special Olympics State, Provincial, National, Regional, and World Games. Annually, more than 109,000 dedicated and compassionate law enforcement members carry the "Flame of Hope," symbolizing courage and celebration of diversity uniting communities around the globe.

Congratulations to the staff of York CI for their award-winning support of Special Olympics Connecticut.



Back in March, staff members of the York Correctional Institution wore purple in observance of International Women's Day and Women's History Month.

WALK IT OFF!

by Joe Bouchard

This article is reprinted with permission from Correctional Oasis, Volume 19, Issue 2, February, 2022

Think of a placid pond. It appears to you as absolutely still and smooth, like a clean sheet of glass. The pond looks so pure and peaceful that it almost seems that it is permanent. Suddenly, a huge stone impacts the center of the body of water. Waves break the calm and radiate outward in a forceful and inevitable concentric pattern. The wave splashes over all parts of the shore.

Much has been written about stress and its many negative impacts. And much more is experienced every day in high-stress jobs like corrections. In corrections, there are many examples of a stress event that do not land directly on a person but are close enough to leave negative impressions. Like the sudden impact of the stone on a still surface, one stress event can touch many places in a quick manner.

Some examples of stress are:

- A colleague in another housing unit is assaulted.
- Dangerous contraband is found in the mail room.
- News of an escape from a facility nearby reached the ears of staff and prisoners.
- Budgeting constraints from the Capitol will necessitate changes in operation.



How does one deal with these in a productive and healthy manner? I believe that there are many components to this and they work together to alleviate the tension. Physical activity, done in moderation, is a tried-and-true way to mitigate what stress brings.

For me, walking has always been a great way to battle tension. I find that meandering along a well-trodden route allows my mind to untangle.

Here are a few thoughts about walking as a tool to lower anxiety:

- It allows the brain to oxygenate and regenerate more so than if you were in a sedentary position. If you permit yourself to forget the tension, sometimes rote exercise will bring a solution to mind unbidden.
- Walking is a way to refresh from a cubicle or worn work area.
- Taking a stroll with colleagues can build camaraderie.
- Walking works for everyone: recluses, people who prefer few companions, and with large groups.
- It is a great way to beat a seasonal slump, especially in the higher elevations where winter lingers.

A simple walking program can motivate staff. This can be as easy as meeting at a predetermined time and walking the parking lot. Incentives can expand participation. Little gifts can truly move people to actions. A visual reminder of progress may also help. This can be done in the form of a spread sheet or a board with names and distance goals. And the program can be daily – like a wider expansion of the Wellness Wednesday salad at lunch.

Save the Date
Women in Corrections
ANNUAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
August 4 - 5, 2022

Our goal is to identify, empower and prepare women in the Connecticut DOC for roles in leadership throughout the agency. The Women in Corrections Committee will be hosting the *Annual Women in Leadership Summit* Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development in Cheshire CT.

EVENT DETAILS TO FOLLOW

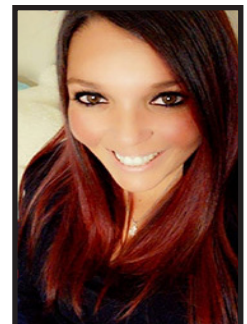
HR Super Team Member Achievement Award Recipients

January – March, 2022

Joana Reis, HR Generalist 2

Joana goes above and beyond her job duties, she is hardworking and committed to assisting all staff with any issue, even when she is not in the office. Her professionalism and efforts are truly an asset.

Joana is knowledgeable and informative. If she does not know the answer, she will get it and get back to you. She is a team player. She treats staff with respect, dignity, and equality.

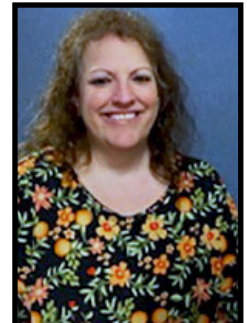


Joana Reis

April – June, 2022

Joyce Becker, HR Generalist 2

Joyce has been accredited as being knowledgeable and friendly. She treats individuals with respect, dignity, and care. Joyce is willing to share information and resolve problems. If she does not know the answer, she will research and get back to you with a response. She goes above and beyond her duties to make sure the job gets done.



Joyce Becker

New Supervisors Graduate

A total of 15 recently promoted supervisors were sworn in by Commissioner Angel Quiros during a ceremony held at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development on March 24, 2022. The new supervisors also received their badges and certificates as a result of successfully completing the two-weeks of training. As a precaution due to the increase in the Covid-19 positivity rate, attendance at the event was limited to



The group of Department of Correction's New Supervisors which graduated on March 24, 2022.

graduates, and one family member. Additionally, members of the Executive Team, some of the training academy staff, and a representative from each graduate's assigned facility were in attendance. Others, including family, friends, and colleagues were able to witness the ceremony via Zoom. Over the course of the two-weeks of training, which was coordinated by Counselor Supervisor Amy Faraci, a wide variety of topics were covered including: Effective Communication, Cultural Competency, and the Police Accountability Act. Commissioner Angel Quiros addressed the new supervisors, encouraging them to continue their education – whether formally or informally. He also urged them to take care of themselves.

Walking For Your Health from page 6

As I write this, my college is planning a Winter Walking Program. Seven different walking routes have been planned and posted. Three are outside the campus, but no further than one half mile from the starting point inside the building. Four other routes are completely inside the main campus building. The longest of these inside routes is one half mile. We are considering incentives, logging, and possible friendly competition with teams. Dealing with stress does not necessarily need to be complex. In fact, simple or even inelegant tactics can help in alleviating tension. A walking program is an extremely simple way to help battle stress. That, in combination with other healthy stress relieving methods, can help anyone ride the tumultuous waves of events.

Joe Bouchard is a seasoned corrections professional. He knows a thing or two about stress, having served in the Michigan Department of Corrections in a maximum-security prison for 25 years.