



### Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support restitution, rehabilitation and successful community intergration

## National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, also Nurses' and Teachers' Appreciation Week May 5 – 11, 2013

Each year this week is dedicated 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 – all professions that comprise essential components of our correctional family.

Teachers, health care professionals, support staff, and correction officers all work together to address the multitude of offender needs. Some of those needs include health problems, addictive behaviors, serious mental health issues, illiteracy and lack of job skills.

Few people truly understand the difficulties corrections professionals face on a regular basis, often times at great personal risk. Despite these challenges, you rise to the occasion daily and work tirelessly to ensure a better chance for successful re-integration for offenders - in turn improving public safety for the citizens of our great state.

None of this would be possible without you, the best correctional professionals in the country. All too often, your honorable actions are carried out with little awareness or acknowledgment from the general public.

I would like to take this opportunity to officially thank you for the outstanding work that you do. You are the reason the Connecticut Department of Correction is among the finest agencies in the nation.

Keep up the good work, and stay safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Dzurenda".

James E. Dzurenda

March 14, 2013

through

May 6, 2013

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## From the Commissioner



As you are no doubt aware by now, I have been named Interim Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Correction while a national search is conducted to fill the void left by the retirement of Commissioner Leo C. Arnone.

First off, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Commissioner Arnone for his nearly four decades of dedicated service to our state. I especially want to express my gratitude for his leadership and tutelage during the past three-and-one half years, during which time I had the privilege of serving as his deputy commissioner. I have learned much from Commissioner Arnone, and though he will be missed, I wish him all the best in his retirement. Whoever is

selected as the next commissioner of this agency will have some big shoes to fill.

As the Interim Commissioner, my primary objective is to insure that this Department continues to fulfill our mission of protecting the public. With your help, I am confident that we shall continue to maintain safe, secure and humane correctional facilities.

Additionally, I am committed to continuing our Agency's re-entry efforts. I firmly believe that continuing to focus on our re-entry efforts is not only critical to the ongoing safety of the citizens of Connecticut, but it also will be a financial benefit to the state as well.

I know that I can count on your tireless commitment to make our Department the best it can be. I stand confident that this Department shall continue to fulfill our mission of protecting the public, and preparing offenders for successful reintegration. I have come to appreciate the ability of our staff to adapt, adjust, and overcome any obstacles in the fulfillment of our goals.

In the meantime, I look forward to working with all of you through this transition period. I truly feel honored to serve as your interim commissioner.

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## Commissioner Arnone Retires



**Commissioner Leo C. Arnone greets well-wishers as he leaves Central Office for the last time.**

It was a day nearly four decades in the making. Commissioner Leo C. Arnone left work for the final time on March 28, 2013.

This is actually the second time that Commissioner Arnone has retired from the Department. His correctional career started in 1974, as a front line correction officer at the Somers State Prison. During the next 21 years, he went on to hold nearly every position up to and including regional director – overseeing six correctional facilities.

In 1995, Commissioner Arnone accepted the challenge of rebuilding the state juvenile detention system within the State Judicial Branch. During his tenure, all three state facilities would become fully accredited through the American Correctional Association (ACA) and the system overall was transformed from troubled to a national model.

In 2007, Commissioner Arnone transitioned to the Connecticut Department of Children and Families as the Bureau Chief of the Juvenile Service Bureau. In this position he was responsible for juvenile offenders committed to the custody of the department.

His career came full circle when he returned to the Department of Correction as commissioner in July of 2010.

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# Honoring the Department's Best

## The Connecticut Department of Correction 2012 Annual Award Recipients

<u>Award</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Medal of Valor	Todd Samul
Officer of the Year	Joseph Schoonmaker
Employee of the Year	Diane Carr
Dist. Public Service	Floyd LeSane
Supervisor of the Year	Maureen Reeves
Manager of the Year	William Faneuff
Parole Officer of the Year	Kendra Herrick
Health Services	
Employee of the Year	Sean Macrae
Teacher of the Year	Rayford Somerville
Excellence in	
Correctional Training	Alison Fry
Innovator's Award	Robert Colli
VIP of the Year	LaToya D'Ann Johnson
Unit of the Year	Security/Intelligence Unit
Commissioner's Award	Brian Garnett

The Department of Correction's Annual Awards Ceremony held March 21, 2013, at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development gave Commissioner Leo C. Arnone one last opportunity to publicly praise his staff before his retirement from the Department.

"It is still very important to us as an agency to recognize those men and women who go the extra mile on behalf of the citizens of our state," Arnone said addressing those gathered at the training academy. "Today's recipients have truly set the standard for corrections."

However, before the awards ceremony could begin there were a few other items of business to attend to. First, the Commissioner took advantage of having many of the Agency's top managers on hand to officially swear in the new Director of Engineering and Facilities Management Services, Steve Link.

"Having taken part in the search for a successor to Dave Batten, we looked long and hard to find someone with the level of qualifications that Steve (Link) possesses," the Commissioner said.

Director Link, who most recently worked for the State Department of Public Works, where he was

the Director of Facility Operations of the Capitol Area System, has 25 years experience in the field of facility maintenance.

Once Director Link was sworn in, there was a "graduation" ceremony of sorts. The four new members of the Department's Affirmative Action Unit (Legislative and Administrative Advisor, Holly Quackenbush Darin; Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist, Judith Garcia-Carter; Leadership Associate, Camille Grant; and Leadership Associate, Sheila Mancini) were presented with certificates for their participation in more than half of Pre-Service Class 253's training program. Commissioner Arnone took the opportunity to underscore the important role that the members of the Affirmative Action Unit play in ensuring the Department maintains a diversified workforce with equal opportunity for all.

With that, the focus of the day turned to celebrating the achievements of some of our Agency's finest employees. Award recipients were called to the stage while a brief description of their accomplishments was read.

One such example of a staff member going the extra mile was that of the recipient of the Correction Officer of the Year Award, Joseph Schoonmaker of the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center. Officer Schoonmaker is responsible for several programs that are designed to assist people from the community who are in need.



**Parole Officer of The Year  
Kendra Herrick**

# A Fond Farewell from page 2



**Commissioner Arnone, accompanied by his wife Linda, is saluted by DoC staff as he leaves work for the last time to begin his retirement.**

On his last day of work staff members from throughout the agency lined the parking lot of Central Office to “walkout” Commissioner Arnone. With the Department’s Honor Guard leading the way, Commissioner Arnone (joined by his wife, his daughter, and his son-in-law) gave hugs and shook hands with the many well-wishers until he reached the end of the line. With a final salute he got into his car and drove off to begin his well deserved retirement.

# Around the Cell Block



**GEORGIA** - The Georgia Department of Correction recently held a Job Fair for U.S. military veterans. Altogether, there were approximately 800 jobs available for veterans.

**OREGON** - The Oregon House has overwhelmingly approved a bill, by a vote of 52-7, allowing law enforcement agencies to use drones for surveillance — with a warrant or, in emergency circumstances, without a warrant. The bill would require photos taken from a drone to be erased within 30 days, unless the information is part of a criminal prosecution. The drones could not be fitted with weapons. Civil liberty advocates raised concerns that the unregulated use of drones could infringe on citizens’ privacy rights.

## Years of Service

### Employees with 20 Years of DoC Service as of February 2013

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Wells, Amos	Correction Officer	BCC	4/3/1992
Mancini, Danielle	Parole Officer 2	Cen. Off	2/5/1993

### Employees with 25 Years of DoC Service as of February 2013

Alves, John	Warden	MYI	2/5/1988
Sirois, Michael	Plant Fac. Eng.	Northern CI	2/8/1988

*Total  
Supervised  
Population  
on*

*May 6, 2013*

*20,840*

*On May 6, 2012  
the population was  
21,156*

# DoC 2012 Annual Awards

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One such initiative is the facility's fuel assistance program, where wood gathered from the facility grounds, is donated one cord at a time to families who are having trouble paying for fuel to heat their homes.

In the words of Warden Scott Erfe, who nominated officer Schoonmaker, "he is one of those staff members you would love to clone."

Not unexpectedly, there were also examples of our staff's heroism. The Medal of Valor was awarded to Correction Officer Todd Samul also from the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center.

Upon responding to a Code Blue with a subsequent Code White, 18-year veteran of the Department, officer Samul found three inmates involved in an altercation, with one inmate on the ground, suffering severe head trauma, unconscious and unresponsive. Without regard for his personal safety, Officer Samul stood over the body of the injured inmate in an effort to protect him from further harm – all the while pushing the other two inmates away from the lifeless body lying on the ground.

The inmate's injuries were so severe that he had to be flown by Life Star to the hospital. Thanks in no small part to Officer Samul's willingness to risk his own life, the inmate survived the brutal attack.

The final award presentation, the Commissioner's Award, provided the most poignant moment of the ceremony. For the first time in the Department's history the award, whose recipient is chosen solely by the Commissioner, was awarded posthumously.

"This year when I turned my attention to picking someone to receive this award the choice was clear," Commissioner Arnone said. "My only regret is that I cannot present this award to him directly."

The Commissioner then asked that Jean Garnett come forward to accept the Commissioner's Award on behalf of her recently departed son, the Director of the External Affairs Division, Brian Garnett.

Mrs. Garnett, along with several others in attendance, fought back tears as she accepted the award for her son. As a permanent tribute to Director Garnett, a replica of the plaque that was given to Jean Garnett is on permanent display in the lobby of the Department's central office in Wethersfield.

In the words of Commissioner Arnone, the event was a great occasion for us as an agency to join together to celebrate some of the accomplishments of the best correctional professionals in the country.



**Medal of Valor Recipient  
Todd Samul**



**The Security Division's Intelligence Unit - The Department of Correction Unit of the Year**

# Diversity Council Forum

## The Department's Affirmative Action Unit Hosts Educational Roundtable

On March 5, 2013, the staff of the Affirmative Action Unit held an educational forum on Diversity Councils in Café 24 at Central Office. There was a large turnout with nearly 40 facility representatives in attendance. The main focus of the forum was to revitalize facility Diversity Councils by discussing their objectives, benefits, roles and responsibilities as well as to serve as an opportunity for facility representatives to bounce ideas off one another.

The Affirmative Action Unit consists of Unit Manager Holly Darin, Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist 2 Christian Moore, Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist 1 Judith Garcia-Carter, Leadership Associates Camille Grant and Sheila Mancini and Administrative Assistant Patricia Davis. Holly Darin introduced staff in the Affirmative Action Unit. Each staff member has been assigned to act as a liaison for specific facilities and will attend monthly Diversity Council meetings to offer suggestions, feedback and ideas.

Christian Moore provided an overview of why Diversity Councils exist, their mission, objective and benefits, as well as an explanation of what Diversity Councils are and are not. In addition, resource packets were distributed to attendees which included examples of facility newsletters, one month of a diversity calendar, and copies of diversity exercises.

Five guest speakers were invited to present at the forum. Specifically, Volunteer Program Manager Mary Dunn from Garner CI, Parole Manager Leigh Ware from Parole & Community Services, FAA Yussuf Gulaid from Central Office, Chaplain Jerilyn Hunihan from Hartford CC and Counselor Supervisor Eulalia Garcia from Cheshire CI. These guest speakers provided guidance to those in attendance by discussing ways they have been successful with promoting diversity among staff and explaining specific diversity related educational and social events sponsored by their councils.

During a question and answer session offered at the end of the forum, discussion was held regarding ways to communicate and share among all facilities diversity related events and activities. Those in attendance were made aware that the Affirmative Action Unit is in the process of updating its intranet site with current information relating to affirmative action and diversity. Material will include facility Diversity Council assignments for Affirmative Action Unit staff, Diversity Council meeting dates for each facility, and dates for upcoming events by individual Diversity Councils. In addition, photos and information relating to events sponsored at various facilities will be posted, as well as copies of newsletters and any other documents concerning the activities of individual Diversity Councils. Further, at the suggestion of those attending the forum, a list of diversity related speakers who have been used by various facilities will be compiled and posted. By updating the intranet in this way DOC staff will be able to have a "go-to" to access pertinent affirmative action and diversity related information.

The Affirmative Action Unit thanks all who attended.



**The Affirmative Action Unit (standing L to R): Christian Moore, Holly Darin, Sheila Mancini, Camille Grant, Judith Garcia-Carter. Seated: Patricia Davis.**

## Team DoC Runs for the Sandy Hook Families



Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak (green headband) poses with members of Team DoC before the Sandy Hook Run for the Families.

On March 23, 2013, the Hartford Marathon Foundation sponsored the Sandy Hook Run For The Families. As a way of bringing staff together to honor and remember the victims of the Sandy Hook tragedy, Team DoC was created for staff who wished to participate in this 5k event. Some 15,000 runners participated in the event, which started in front of the Old State House and finishing at Bushnell Park. All totaled, an impressive \$438,131 was raised for the Sandy Hook School Support Fund administered by the United Way. Team DoC had more than 40 participants in the race, as well as many staff and family members who came to watch and lend support. Special tee-shirts were created by Correctional Enterprises for purchase by those participating in the race or for those who could not run, but wished to contribute to the victims of Sandy Hook. The response from department staff was overwhelming, 407 shirts were sold, resulting in a donation of \$2,208 to the Sandy Hook Elementary School Memorial Scholarship Fund - administered through the Newtown Scholarship Association, Inc. This scholarship will provide need-based financial assistance to college-bound students who are residents of Newtown. Many Team DoC members and their families met prior to the race for photos and friendly banter, and a great time was had by all.

## Master Social Worker

The following article was submitted by Clinical Social Worker Seneca Patterson who works at the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution.

It all began in the year 2000 while walking the hallway of Osborn. Correction Officer Michael Daniels stopped me to ask a question, "How can I do what you do?" I replied, "Well you have to go back to school and get a master's degree in social work".

Eleven years later while walking the hallway of Walker Prison, correction officer Daniels approached me and said "I am a correctional counselor now and I will be working here, I went back to school and got the master's degree. I would like to eventually have my own practice".

Without skipping a beat we immediately began discussing what is needed to accomplish this dream.

The end result landed correctional counselor Daniels an opportunity to utilize the master's degree as he was recently

offered a Clinical Social Worker position through Correctional Managed Health Care at the Garner Correctional Institution.

There he will learn the role of a Clinical Social Worker while obtaining the licensure needed to work in his capacity.

With less than two years left until retirement, clinical social worker Mike Daniels' story serves to inspire others to follow their dream no matter what it may be. I wish him the best of luck and know that he will be successful at whatever he sets his mind to.



Clinical Social Worker Mike Daniels at the Garner Correctional Institution.

## Years Of Service

### Employees with 20 Years of DoC Service as of March 2013

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title Job</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Recupido, Sandra	CorrFoodSvcSupv2	BCC	3/5/1993
Colon, Juan	Correction Officer	BCC	3/19/1993
Keel, James	Captain	BCC	1/22/1993
Lesniewski, John	Correction Officer	Brooklyn CI	3/19/1993
Trainor, Mark	Correction Officer	Brooklyn CI	3/19/1993
Googe, Dwayne	Correction Officer	CRCI	3/19/1993
Concepcion, Joshua	Corr. Stores Man.	Cen. Off.	3/5/1993
Camara, Edmond	Corr. Stores Man.	Cen. Off.	3/5/1993
Lynch, Daniel	Correction Officer	Cen. Off.	3/19/1993
Sharpe, Kimberly	Coun. Sup.	Cen. Off.	3/26/1993
Lizotte, Marc	Correction Officer	Cheshire CI	3/19/1993
Cummings, Reginald	Correction Officer	Cheshire CI	1/22/1993
Marshall, Charles	Correction Officer	CRCC	3/19/1993
Gabriel, Joseph	Food Serv. Sup. 3	Enfield CI	3/19/1993
Desousa, Marie	Correction Officer	Enfield CI	3/19/1993
Cuevas, Francisco	Correction Officer	Garner CI	3/19/1993
Fasino, Lisa	Food Serv. Sup. 2	Garner CI	3/19/1993
Smith, Sharon	Correction Officer	HCC	3/19/1993
Roche, Dennis	Deputy Warden	HCC	3/19/1993
Plushner, James	Correction Officer	MWCI	3/19/1993
Kennedy, William	Correction Officer	MWCI	3/19/1993
Smith, Anthony	Lieutenant	MYI	3/19/1993
Shaheed, Abdul	Lieutenant	NHCC	1/22/1993
Pittman, Ronald	Captain	WCCI	3/19/1993
Glenny, Irvin	Food Serv. Sup. 2	WCCI	3/19/1993
Conklin, Alan	Food Serv. Sup. 2	WCCI	3/19/1993
Kittredge, Clarence	Food Serv. Sup. 2	WCCI	3/19/1993
Martin, James	Food Serv. Sup. 3	WCCI	3/19/1993
Savoie, Richard	Correction Officer	York CI	3/19/1993

### Employees with 25 Years of Service as of March 2013

Dussault, Arlene	Fis./Admin. Sup.	Cen. Off.	2/5/1988
Haeseler, Mary	Rec. Spec. 1	CRCC	3/1/1988
Weekes, Mary	Secretary 2	HCC	3/7/1988

## Law School

On Friday, April 05, 2013, Counselor Supervisor Brian Bouffard, & Correction Officers Jason Hogan and Christopher Kelly of the Cheshire Correctional Institution attended Law Day 2013 at the Walter C. Polson Middle School in Madison, Connecticut.



**Counselor Supervisor Brian Bouffard, and Correction Officers Jason Hogan and Christopher Kelly participated in Law Day at the Walter C. Polson School in Madison, CT.**

The trio of correctional professionals spoke to four separate groups of students from the school regarding the many job opportunities within the Department of Correction.

Various other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies also attended the event including: the Madison Police Department, the United States Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, the Internal Revenue Service, the United States Coast Guard, the United States Attorney's Office, the Connecticut State Attorney's Office, the Connecticut State Superior Court, the Connecticut State Police, and the Connecticut State Police Crime Lab.