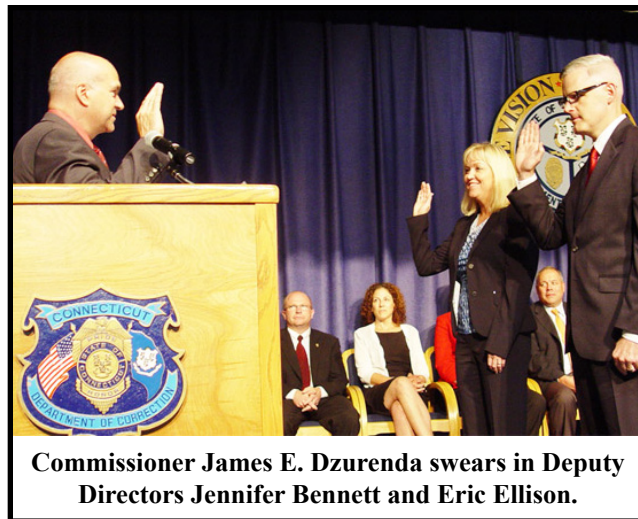


## Our Mission

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.

## Annual Awards Ceremony

The Department of Correction's Annual Awards Ceremony held June 12, 2014, at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development gave Commissioner James E. Dzurenda his first opportunity as the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Correction to publicly praise agency staff for their outstanding efforts.



**Commissioner James E. Dzurenda swears in Deputy Directors Jennifer Bennett and Eric Ellison.**

see [Simply the Best/page 2](#)

June 14., 2014  
through  
July 23, 2014

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24 Wolcott Hill Road  
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## From the Commissioner



Summer is in full swing and many of us are taking time off to enjoy some much deserved and needed time off from work. As an agency, with our primary mission of protecting the public, we do not have the luxury of taking time off. There is a lot going on and I thought this would be a good opportunity to update you on some of the issues affecting our department.

July is the start of the new fiscal year, and it should come as little surprise that money is tight. Our appropriation for Fiscal Year 2015 of \$675,833,632 is approximately \$1million less than our Fiscal Year 2014 expenditure of \$676,758,434. We have been asked to do more with less before, and we will in all likelihood be asked to do it again. I am proud to say that we have been able in the past to reduce our annual budget without compromising the safety of the public or of the staff. I have no doubt that we will continue to do so in the future. For my part, I will continue to fight for the adequate level of funding to make sure we can continue to successfully carry out our mission.

see [Proactive Changes /page 3](#)

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

James E. Dzurenda  
Commissioner

Web address:  
[www.ct.gov/doc](http://www.ct.gov/doc)

Public Information  
Office telephone:  
(860) 692-7780  
Fax: (860) 692-7783

# Simply the Best from page 1

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 some of the department's newly promoted administrators, including two Directors, two Deputy Directors, and four Deputy Wardens.

First up was the Director of the Affirmative Action Unit, Holly Darin. Before administering her the oath, Commissioner Dzurenda took the opportunity to underscore the important role the Affirmative Action Unit plays in ensuring the Department maintains a diversified workforce with equal opportunity for all.

Next to be sworn in was the new Director of Psychological Services for the Department of Correction, Dr. Thomas Kocienda. Since 2006, Dr. Kocienda has worked for Correctional Managed Health Care as a Supervising Psychologist at the Garner Correctional Institution, so it is safe to say that he has a good handle on the mental health issues that the department must deal with.

With several parole officers cheering them on, Jennifer Bennett and Eric Ellison were sworn in as Deputy Directors of the Parole and Community Services Division.

Last but not least to officially be sworn in were the department's four newest deputy wardens: Anthony Corcella of the Brooklyn Correctional Institution, Pat Kupec who oversees the Offender Programs and Offender Reentry Units, Stacy Marmora of the New Haven Correctional Center, and Jeffrey Zegarzewski of the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center.

With the deputy wardens having taken the oath, 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.

This year's awards ceremony featured a new twist when it came to the Employee of the Year Award. The selection committee having had such a difficult time selecting just one person from the several very deserving candidates, they chose two individuals to receive the Employee of the Year Award. This year's recipients are Counselor Supervisor Gavin Galligan of the Offender Classification and Population Management Unit, and Correctional Counselor Wanda Maloney of the Hartford Correctional Center.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the presentation of the Medal of Valor award. Warden Scott Erfe of the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center not only nominated the winner, but also read the dramatic account of the incident which he was directly involved in. Warden Erfe detailed how the selfless actions of Correctional Counselor Kristina McMahon prevented harm from coming to him and, "potentially averted a catastrophic incident from occurring."

In the words of Commissioner Dzurenda, 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.

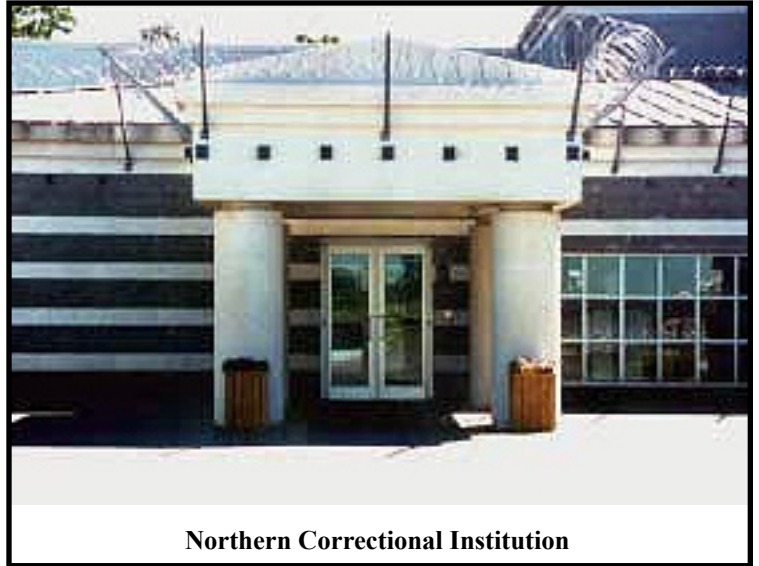
<b>The Department of Correction 2013 Annual Award Recipients</b>	
<b><u>Award</u></b>	<b><u>Recipient</u></b>
Medal of Valor	Kristina McMahon
Officer of the Year	Efrain Roman
Employee(s) of the Year	Gavin Galligan Wanda Maloney
Dist. Public Service Supervisor of the Year	Kathy Lewis
Manager of the Year	Margo Testa
Parole Officer of the Year	Linda Kendrick
Health Services Employee of the Year	Raymond Belval
Teacher of the Year	Carol Whitham
Excellence in Correctional Training	Eileen O'Neill
Innovator's Award	David Koellmer
VIP of the Year	Thomas Newell
Unit of the Year	Seth Johnson
Commissioner's Award	Programs & Treatment Cheryl Cepelak

# Proactive Changes from page 1

Another issue effecting our department is that of our Administrative Segregation policies. In other states such as Maryland and New York, there has been an alarming trend by the court systems of ruling against the respective department of corrections' segregation policies, and in turn dictating new policies. Legislators in additional states are looking to rein in segregation practices which they feel cause behavioral problems rather than correct them.

Just to be clear, the majority of these cases deal with the policy of solitary confinement, a policy which we do not subject our offenders to within the Connecticut Department of Correction. Despite this fact, our Northern Correctional Institution has been compared to United States Penitentiary, Administrative Maximum Facility (ADX), considered the nation's most restrictive Maximum U.S. Penitentiary located in Colorado. Without going into too much detail, let me just say that the ADX in Colorado is much more restrictive than Northern CI is.

Still, in an effort to be proactive and not wanting the way we deal with our most disruptive inmates to be determined by the court system, a few years



Northern Correctional Institution

ago we began to revamp our Administrative Segregation policies. For example, offenders on Administrative Segregation Phase I status are no longer allowed to discharge straight from the program to the community. If an offender is discharged from other phases of Administrative Segregation and returns to the Department of Correction, the offender is no longer automatically placed back into the Administrative Segregation Phase I. The changes we made already have had a positive effect. For example, in 2011, the average number of offenders on Administrative Segregation status in the department was 300. Today the average number of offenders on Administrative Segregation status is down to 80. More importantly, staff safety has been positively impacted. Last year there were 205 assaults on staff, compared to 253 in 2009 – a significant reduction to be sure, but we will continue to strive to lower that number even further.

Additional changes to our Administrative Segregation policy are in the works and will be unveiled within the next few months. One of the changes to the Administrative Segregation Program is that it will no longer consist of just three phases, an additional phase will be added for a total of four phases. Other changes to the Administrative Segregation Program will consist of the creation of new programming components and the formation of multi-disciplinary teams responsible for evaluating progress for each individual offender. This “team” approach will allow for input from our frontline correction officers and counselors, our line supervisors and managers, as well as mental health, education and all other staff connected to the management of that population.

In addition to these changes to our Administrative Segregation policies, we will continue to work collaboratively with other law enforcement organizations as well as community providers to reduce the overall rate of recidivism. Lowering recidivism is in everyone's best interest; ultimately, it results in a safer place to work and a safer place to live and vacation.

I hope you all have a great and safe summer and thank you for your dedication to the important work that you do.

## Energy Efficiency Event

The Connecticut Department of Correction received the prestigious Power of Change State Performance Contracting Project Participant Award at the Power of Change Award event at the State Capitol on June 17.

The 2014 Power of Change Award celebrated the energy efficiency achievements of more than 20 Connecticut state agencies and municipalities. The winners received awards for their innovative initiatives and approaches to reducing energy spending and protecting the environment – efforts which benefit all Connecticut residents. The event also featured recognition of the award winners by state legislative leaders and members of the Power of Change Award committee.



**Left to Right: Rick Hamel, OSHA Coordinator; Thomas Phillips, Plant Facilities Engineer; Rob Klee, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Stephen Link, Director of Facilities Management & Engineering; Joseph Suchecki, Plant Facilities Engineer; and Kevin Roy, Plant Facilities Engineer.**

With Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak proudly looking on, Director of Facilities Management & Engineering Services Stephen Link received the award on behalf of the department. The Department of Correction received the award in the State Performance Contracting Project Participant category for its participation in Connecticut's new Energy Savings Performance Program.

Rob Klee, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, addressed the gathering of more than 100 participants with a message that reinforced the importance of energy efficiency, both as a cost saving measure, but also as a key way to reduce carbon emissions. He noted, "The cheapest and cleanest energy is the energy you don't use."

## Around the Cell Block



**MICHIGAN** - A Saginaw, Michigan sheriff says he's trading his inmates' orange jumpsuits for black-and-white stripes, in part due to pop culture. County Sheriff William Federspiel said that all-orange jumpsuits are increasingly viewed as fashionable, especially because they're seen on popular TV shows such as the Netflix hit "Orange Is the New Black."

**ILLINIOS** - A would-be robber of a Chicago bar was stumped by a seemingly easy-to-solve problem -- a door. He pulled on the door for seven straight minutes. Even though the door was actually unlocked, no amount of pulling seemed to help. Turns out the door just needed a push, a sticker on the outside of the door clearly reads "push."

**Total  
Supervised  
Population  
on  
July 23, 2014  
20,429  
On July 23, 2013  
the population was  
21,099**

## U.S. Attorney Honors DoC

No less than a half dozen Department of Correction staff members were honored during the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut annual United States Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony held June 19, 2014, in New Haven. The ceremony at the City of New Haven's aldermanic chambers recognized more than 160 individuals for their investigative efforts in 30 significant federal criminal prosecutions and civil cases in Connecticut.



The awards highlighted the broad variety of collaborative work performed by local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in Connecticut, including the FBI, DEA, ATF, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Defense, SIGTARP, the Connecticut State Police, Connecticut Department of Correction, and Connecticut Department of Banking. Additionally, more than 30 of the award recipients are members of local police departments from across Connecticut.

"Today, we proudly recognize our law enforcement partners for their exceptional work," stated U.S. Attorney Dierdre Daly. "We are grateful for the courage and dedication they bring to the job. It is our great honor to work with them and to celebrate their accomplishments as they devote their lives to ensuring the safety and security of our communities and all those who live in our state."

Members of the department's Bridgeport Parole Office received awards for their work on Project

Longevity in Bridgeport. An antiviolence initiative, the goal of Project Longevity is to reduce the number of homicides and shootings. Those receiving this award were: Parole Officers Stephan Ciaffaglione, Gladys Marquez, Jack Wallace, and Parole Manager Terri Williams.

Receiving an award for his work on Operation Vinefield was Captain Marc Alderucci. This investigation, which targeted the drug trade in Hartford's North End neighborhoods, led to the convictions of 36 defendants on federal narcotics and firearms charges.

The U.S. Attorney's Award for Outstanding Partnership was presented to a group of local and state law enforcement officers who are assigned to various federal task forces. Among the award recipients was Captain Luis Sosa of the Connecticut Department of Correction.

"Luis' contributions have been many and varied, and perhaps most importantly, they have been marked by his trademark positive attitude, which energizes all around him," U.S. Attorney Daly said in presenting Captain Sosa with the award.

Congratulations to all those for the well deserved recognition of their dedication and hard work.

# Class 260 Graduates

## The official start to a profession

World-renowned forensic scientist Dr. Henry C. Lee served as guest speaker at the Pre-service Graduation Ceremony of Class 260 held Tuesday, July 1, 2014, at Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development in Cheshire.

A total of 156 correctional trainees graduated after successfully completing the pre-service training program.

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman was also on hand to offer congratulatory remarks to the graduating class. Wyman thanked those graduates who also served in the military as well.

“Some of these men and women have done double duty already,” the Lieutenant Governor said, “serving our country and now serving our state again.”

In addressing the class, Dr. Henry Lee emphasized the importance of their work, urging graduates to stay healthy and never stop learning. Lee told the graduates of the 10-week officer training program that life is made up of winners and losers. He urged them to strive every day to be winners.

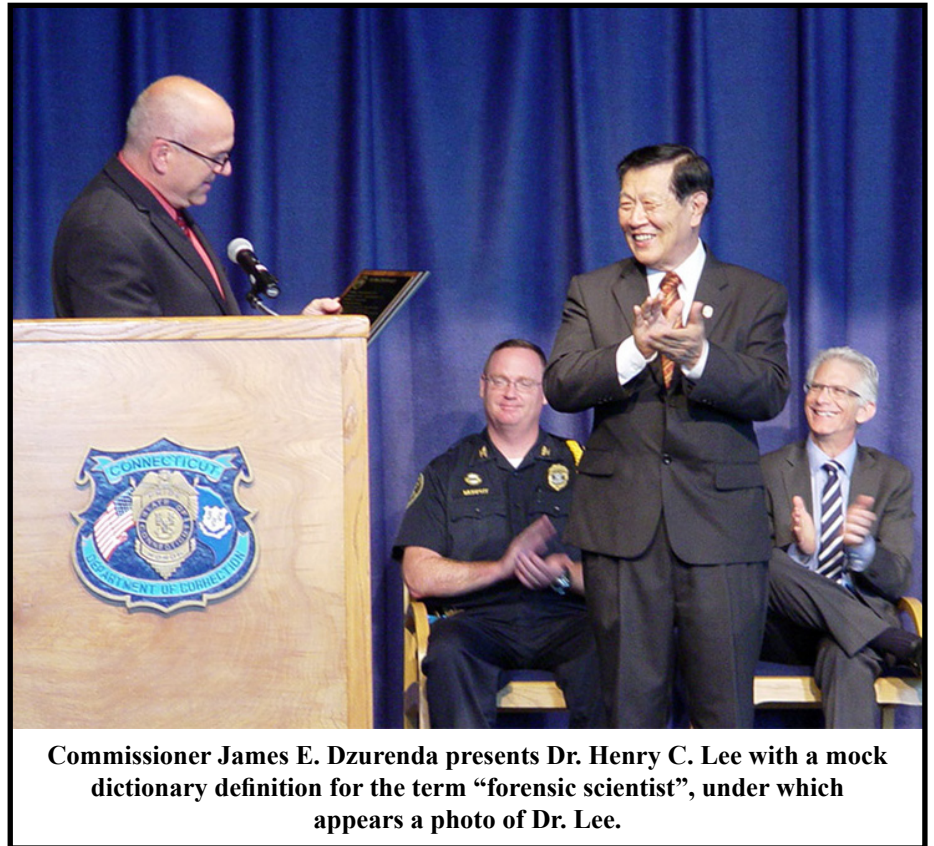
“Winners are ones who have the answers, who make the impossible become possible,” he said. “The losers are just part of the problem.”

With the conclusion of Dr. Lee’s remarks, Commissioner Dzurenda presented the famed scientist with a unique plaque of appreciation. The plaque was a mock dictionary entry for the term “forensic scientist”, underneath which was a photo of Dr. Lee.

The next order of business was the presentation of awards. Pre-Service Class 260 selected Correctional Captain Dino Cichetti of the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution as the recipient of the Victor E. Harris, Jr. Award. The Victor E. Harris, Jr. Award, named for a deceased officer whose enthusiastic dedication and commitment to correctional education and training still lives on in the memory of DoC staff.

In addition to the Victor E. Harris, Jr. Award, the PRIDE Award recipients were also acknowledged during the ceremony. The PRIDE Award is presented to a trainee from each pre-service 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 PRIDE Award were nominated by their peers with the blessing of their Class Manager. The recipients of the PRIDE award for Class 260 are: Correction Officers Peter Allard, Andre Arrington, Annamarie Cappasso, Jeremy Fisher, and Derek Wayner. Correctional Food Service Supervisor II Carissa Stepanian also received the PRIDE Award.



**Commissioner James E. Dzurenda presents Dr. Henry C. Lee with a mock dictionary definition for the term “forensic scientist”, under which appears a photo of Dr. Lee.**

## New Food Truck

A 16-year-old food delivery truck has been replaced by a brand new, larger, more fuel efficient, and better for the environment truck thanks to a grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).



**Nutrition and Food Services Director Michael Bibens with the newly purchased box truck.**

The Department of Correction was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$27,246 from the DEEP toward the purchase of a 2015 International Diesel 28-foot refrigerated box truck for the Food Services Division at the York Correctional Institution. The new truck replaces the 1998, 24 foot refrigerated truck, which until recently was used by Food Services staff for delivering food to facilities across the state.

The grant is part of the state's 2012 allocation under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA).

The federal grant program aims to reduce the amount of diesel fuel emissions into the environment. The Department of Correction is the first state agency in Connecticut to be awarded a DERA grant for the purchase of new replacement vehicle. The program provides up to 25 percent of the replacement cost of a vehicle. Grant Manager Christine Fortunato intends to capitalize on the department's success securing the funds by applying for more vehicle replacement grants in the future.

## Watson Named EMT of the Year

The Wolcott Exchange Club has named Captain James Watson, Jr. of the Cheshire Correctional Institution as the Emergency Medical Technician of the Year. Watson has been a member of the Wolcott Volunteer Ambulance Association for 23 years.

"His dedication to the corps is really unbelievable," said Wolcott Ambulance Chief Bill Barratt. "I would say our average volunteer doesn't get beyond five years, so being there beyond 23 is certainly a great accomplishment." Over the years, Captain Watson's responsibilities with the Wolcott Volunteer Ambulance Association included being a lieutenant, a board member, and in charge of recruiting new EMTs.



**Cheshire CI's Captain James Watson (R) receives the Wolcott Exchange Club's EMT of the Year Award**

Service to the community apparently runs in the family – his parents have also served as volunteer EMTs and his father, James Watson, Sr., was the Wolcott Chief of Police.

Captain Watson was officially acknowledged during the Wolcott Exchange Club's Public Service Awards Ceremony held April 21 at Mahan's Lakeview Fine Catering in Wolcott.

# MYI Employees of Quarter

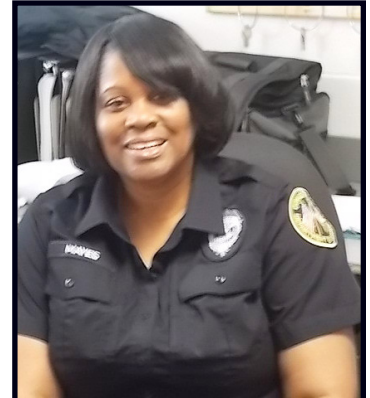


**Captain Steven Gallo**

Warden John Alves is happy to announce that the following staff members have been named Employees of the Quarter for the Manson Youth Institution: Captain Steven Gallo, and Correction Officer Victoria Mayes.

Captain Gallo was honored for his efforts as Unit Manager and his willingness to oversee up to six units at one time. Captain Gallo always goes above and beyond the line of duty. He takes his assignments in stride and gets the job completed promptly. His dedication and commitment to the facility and its entire staff is recognized and very much appreciated.

Correction Officer Mayes was also honored and described as a team player who always presents herself professionally on a daily basis while being able to remain personable and kind to visitors and coworkers. She is knowledgeable, reliable and



**Correction Officer  
Victoria Mayes**

maintains a positive approach to managing the day to day challenges of the intake post. Officer Mayes is an integral part of the correctional team.

Please join Warden Alves in congratulating these well deserving Employees of the Quarter.

## Years Of Service

### Employees with 20 Years of Service as of May 2014

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Bancroft, Constance	Admin. Assistant	Hartford CC	5/13/1994
Brace, Kurt	Food Serv. Sup.2	Enfield CI	4/29/1994
Champagne, Lorry	Secretary 2	Carl Robinson	5/6/1994
Elder, Mack	Chaplain	CRCC	2/10/1993
Fox, Deborah	Rec. Spec. 1	York CI	5/27/1994
Fulton, Karen	Counselor Sup.	CRCC	5/27/1994
Pioggia, Matthew	Corr. Locksmith	Hartford CC	5/2/1994
Rugar, Judith	State School Teacher	Osborn CI	5/13/1994
Somerville, Rayford	State School Teacher	Enfield CI	4/29/1994
Vitali, David	School Dept. Head	MYI	5/27/1994
Walton, Theodore	Rec. Sup.	Bridgeport CC	5/27/1994

### Employees with 25 Years of Service as of May 2014

Chapman, Antonio	Lieutenant	Cen. Off.	4/7/1989
Sanchez, Wanda	Office Assistant	Cen. Off.	5/5/1989



# New Haven Correctional Center Facility Awards

New Haven Correctional Center recently held its Annual Awards Ceremony in order to recognize their staff for the great job they do on a daily basis. The following staff members were recognized for their hard-work and dedication:



**L to R: Deputy Warden Roger Bowles, Officer Dominic Dawson, Officer Thomas Durant, Officer Edward Harris, Captain Craig Burnett, Deputy Warden Stacy Marmora, Counselor Chanessa Bent, Counselor Denise Anderson, Dr. Cynthia Palmisano, Lt. Vanessa Mallison, Lt. Tanya Caracoglia, and Counselor Erica Reshard.**

## New Haven C.C. 2014 Award Winners

**Correctional Officers:** C. Spears, Edward Harris  
and Dominic Dawson

**Supervisor of Year:** Captain Craig Burnett

**Counselor of the Year:** Chanessa Bent

**Health Services Employee of the Year:**

Dr. Cynthia Palmisano

**Employee of the Year:** Officer Thomas Durant

**Unit of the Year:** The Lieutenants

**Outstanding Service Award:** Addiction Services  
Counselors Denise Anderson and Erica Reshard.

# Baseball Fundraiser



The Connecticut State Employees' Campaign is holding a fundraiser with the New Britain Rock Cats. The Rock Cats are playing the Portland Sea Dogs (Red Sox affiliate) on Saturday, July 26th at 7:05 P.M.

Tickets are \$10, of which \$3 will be donated to the State Employees' Campaign. The seats are in reserved section 212.

To purchase tickets please call Josh at 860-224-8383, ext. 24 in the box office. Tell Josh that you wish to purchase tickets for the July 26th game, State Employees' Campaign fundraiser. Also, please tell Josh what state agency you work for so the campaign can credit the \$3 to your Correctional facility.

