

Scott Walker
Governor

Gary H. Hamblin
Secretary



Mailing Address

3099 E. Washington Ave.
Post Office Box 7925
Madison, WI 53707-7925
Telephone (608) 240-5000
Fax (608) 240-3300

State of Wisconsin

Department of Corrections

May 2, 2011
For Immediate Release

Contact: Linda Eggert or Tim Le Monds
WI DOC Public Information Office
Media Line (608) 240-3737

Correctional Employees Week May 1 through May 7

Governor Walker's Proclamation Honors 10,000 WI Correctional Officers/Employees

MADISON— Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker has proclaimed the week of May 1-7 “State Correctional Employees Week” to honor 10,000 men and women in the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) who perform their job duties with courage and dedication.

The state proclamation coincides with “National Correctional Officer/Employee Week” which has been in place since 1985 to recognize the significant contributions made by all U.S. corrections professionals throughout the field of corrections.

WI DOC Secretary Gary Hamblin said, “DOC correctional officers, probation and parole agents and other members of our staff demonstrate professional excellence and commitment 24 hours a day 365 days a year, and they deserve our thanks and recognition for the tremendous job they do to protect the citizens of this state.”

Activities to honor correctional workers will be held all week at DOC adult institutions and work sites statewide and a ceremony honoring this year’s winners of the DOC Secretary’s SALUTE and Valor/Life Saving Awards is planned for Wednesday, May 4th, at 10:30 a.m. at the State Capitol.

Corrections workers are key members of the criminal justice system and put their lives on the line to provide safe and secure institutions and supervise offenders in communities across Wisconsin.

DOC has over 5,000 Correctional Officers safely managing more than 21,000 inmates at Wisconsin’s 36 adult institutions and centers. Another 2,000 DOC agents monitor more than 66,000 offenders in communities on probation, parole or extended supervision. Workers in DOC Division of Juvenile Corrections supervise about 350 juveniles remanded into its custody by the courts.

All of the employees at DOC face difficult challenges daily and some do so at great personal risk. They manage serious situations with limited resources and often with little awareness or acknowledgement from the public.

DOC workers across the state join together each day to execute the agency's overall mission of public safety as well as strengthen its primary goal of preparing offenders to be successful after they are released and reenter their communities.

Correctional employees are dedicated to the DOC initiative on prisoner reentry. From teachers to health care professionals and support staff, Wisconsin's correctional officers and other employees are working together to address the enormous needs of offenders. Those needs include education and/or treatment for issues ranging from dangerous or addictive behaviors and serious mental illness and other health problems to a lack of literacy and job skills and training.

Despite the challenges, correctional employees rise to the occasion daily and work tirelessly to help offenders help rehabilitate themselves and, in turn, improve public safety for residents of the state.

MEDIA NOTE:

Members of the media wishing to learn more about the correctional employees working in their area should contact the DOC Public Information Office for assistance in locating employees to interview and setting up opportunities for videotaping or photographs.