

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

March 22, 2012
For Immediate Release

Contact: Linda Eggert or Tim Le Monds
(608) 240-3737

Oshkosh Correctional Addictions Counselor Receives National Advocate of the Year Award

Kemp accepted the award at a ceremony in Washington D.C. on Tuesday

OSHKOSH, Wis. - Michael Kemp, unit supervisor of the Mental Illness Chemical Abuse treatment program at Oshkosh Correctional Institution, received the 2012 Sen. Harold E. Hughes Advocate of the Year award from National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors or NAADAC at the 2012 Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, March 20.

The award was given to Kemp for his outstanding public advocacy for addiction professionals and the clients they serve. He serves as a certified Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) counselor, AODA clinical supervisor and a certified social worker. He has spent the last 27 years as an addictions professional helping inmates and others get themselves off alcohol and other drugs.

Oshkosh Correctional Institution Deputy Warden Steve Wierenga said everyone at the facility is proud of Kemp's accomplishments. "We are excited for Michael. He is a dedicated professional who is very passionate about his vocation and his pursuit for funding of evidence-based prevention, rehabilitative and treatment programming for not only incarcerated individuals within the Department of Corrections but for all individuals that suffer from addiction throughout the country."

Kemp has been a board member of the Wisconsin Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (WAADAC), the NAADAC state affiliate, for 16 years and has served on various state committees and boards, advocating for prevention, treatment and certification issues. He has also been going to Washington, D.C., to advocate for the addiction profession over the past 12 years.

"Michael Kemp has been a long-time national and state level advocate for many diverse areas of legislation and support for those addicted to alcohol and drugs," said NAADAC Public Policy Chair Gerry Schmidt.

"He has always been an active voice both in his home state and on the larger scene in Washington. His willingness to mentor and encourage his colleagues to become active and to both call and write their representatives on key legislation effecting addictions treatment, education and research has been remarkable over the years," Schmidt said.

Kemp is also an adjunct faculty member in the AODA associate degree program at Fox Valley Technical College, where he co-teaches with his wife, Kris. He also consults as a clinical supervisor for several agencies in eastern Wisconsin.

The Sen. Harold E. Hughes Advocate of the Year Award is named after the Iowa governor, United States senator and lifelong advocate for treatment, research and recovery.

###