

2025 Annual Awards



Kentucky Department of Corrections

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Adult Institution Achievement Awards

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2025 Adult Institutions Achievement Award



Kimberly Stanaford - Bell County Forestry Camp Award presented by Warden James Dibrell

Records Supervisor Kimberly Stanaford has given over 20 years of dedicated service to both Bell County Forestry Camp and Corrections as a whole. In addition to excelling at her assigned duties, she also fills in at the institution when needed. Stanaford always has the institution's best interest foremost in her heart and when she is called at home with a problem, she always comes in to correct the issue promptly. She has been a big part of this institution and its success in the past twenty years, and it will be hard to fill her shoes when she retires. Her devotion to the highest principles of Corrections makes her the ideal candidate for the 2025 Achievement Award.

Roger Kilgore - Blackburn Correctional Complex Award presented by Warden Jesse Stack

Correctional Captain Roger Kilgore consistently shows his devotion to his work and his passion for the development of staff and future leaders of the Department of Corrections. He tirelessly contributes his time and skills to the mission of the facility and the Commonwealth. Kilgore has helped make BCC a better institution, putting its mission above everything else. He is here at all hours and is ready to take on any task asked of him. He has put numerous changes in place that has made the environment more efficient and safer for staff and inmates. Kilgore has made it known that we can reach out to him at any time with a problem, solution, question or suggestion. His dedication to institutional excellence is an inspiration to his fellow employees. He is an excellent representative of the best of Corrections and is a deserving recipient of a 2025 Achievement Award.



2025 Adult Institutions Achievement Award



Eddie Johnson - Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex *Award presented by Warden Shawn McKenzie*

Correctional Officer Eddie Johnson performs excellently as yard officer at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex. He is a diligent officer whose hard work ensures the safety of everyone on the yard. Johnson is instrumental in keeping drugs and other contraband out of prison. He does an excellent job performing pat downs, strip searches and cell and area searches, removing drugs as well as weapons off the yard and out of the living areas. He follows all directives given to him and needs little direct supervision. Johnson is well-respected by all staff. Johnson is always willing to help whenever needed, working overtime if necessary to get the job done. For these reasons and many more Correctional Officer Johnson is a deserving recipient of the 2025 Achievement Award.

William Mullins - Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex *Award presented by Warden Shawn McKenzie*

William Mullins is an outstanding Corrections Unit Administrator in Dorm 5. Mullins works countless hours of overtime to assist security with staff shortages, including working on state closure days within the past year, assisting both 6AM shift and 6PM security staff. He always performs his job duties with the highest level of professionalism and has thorough knowledge of Corrections Policies and Procedures. He completes all aspects of his job duties and goes above and beyond of what is expected. Mullins is willing to take on any challenge without hesitation and is a natural leader-always willing to help with any situation or any problem. He makes those that work around him better. He works in the Programs Section, but always makes sure safety and security are the number one priority. He is an outstanding supervisor and beyond deserving of the Adult Institutions Achievement Award.



2025 Adult Institutions Achievement Award



Drew Mendoza – Green River Correctional Complex (right)

Award presented by Warden Tim Lane

Correctional Lieutenant Drew Mendoza is an active member of the Green River Correctional Complex CERT team and serves as the day shift Operations Lieutenant, assistant armorer, and back up adjustments officer. Mendoza has shown great talent and an ability to lead in these responsibilities. He always looks to mentor and teach his employees. Mendoza has been involved in multiple contraband finds as a visitation supervisor and continues to locate contraband throughout the institution, making it a safer place. Mendoza stepped up to the plate and took on the responsibility of operations and has continued to excel in all his duties. He is a dedicated and detail-oriented staff member, a team player, and always assists his staff. He truly builds others up to be the best they can be. Correctional Lieutenant Drew Mendoza is an asset to the department and exemplifies the level of dedication and professionalism expected from a Corrections employee, making him a deserving recipient of the 2025 Achievement Award.

Roy Pointer – Green River Correctional Complex (left)

Award presented by Warden Tim Lane

Unit Administrator I Roy Pointer began his Corrections career in December 2019, as a correctional officer at Green River Correctional Complex. He promoted to classification and treatment officer in July 2020, and then to Unit Administrator I in July 2022. He is currently assigned to the Special Management Unit. During his career, Pointer has served as backup PREA compliance manager, Securus tablet coordinator, backup transfer coordinator, and backup ADA coordinator. He is a consummate professional, holding himself to a high standard each day and always showing respect and courtesy to coworkers. He excels in all tasks presented to him, helping ensure the smooth functioning of the facility. His professionalism and dedication have made him a top choice to represent GRCC at job fairs. He accepts every professional development opportunity offered and excels at each task assigned. Unit Administrator Roy Pointer is a deserving recipient of the 2025 Green River Correctional Complex Achievement Award.

2025 Adult Institutions Achievement Award



Leon Barnett – Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women (left)

Award presented by Warden Vanessa Kennedy

Correctional Captain Leon Barnett of the Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women consistently demonstrates outstanding job performance, accountability, and an unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of both staff and inmates. Barnett communicates with clarity and consistency, playing a key role in maintaining the smooth daily operations of the facility. He is highly attuned to the needs of the facility and those under his supervision, setting a strong example of leadership, professionalism, and operational excellence. Rather than relying solely on positional authority, he leads by example—demonstrating dedication, reliability, and a strong work ethic that inspires those around him. His leadership fosters a safe, respectful, and supportive environment, and his integrity, sound judgment, and commitment to service make him an outstanding representative of the Department of Corrections. It is for these reasons that Leon Barnett is deserving of a 2025 Achievement Award.

William Shinkle–Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women (right)

Award presented by Warden Vanessa Kennedy

Since beginning his career on June 16, 2008, Maintenance Manager William Shinkle has consistently demonstrated a tireless work ethic and deep institutional knowledge that make him an invaluable asset to our facility. He oversees the maintenance of buildings ranging from those constructed in 1938 to the early 2000s, addressing a wide variety of complex issues with professionalism and precision. Despite the constant and often overwhelming demands of aging infrastructure, he approaches each challenge with calm determination and a solutions-focused mindset. Shinkle leads his team by example, fosters strong interdepartmental cooperation, and consistently ensures the operational integrity and safety of our institution. His dedication goes far beyond routine duties—he takes personal ownership in preserving and improving the facility for staff and inmates alike. We proudly honor William Shinkle's outstanding performance and lasting contributions with this well-deserved Achievement Award.

2025 Adult Institutions Achievement Award



Marshall Peek – Kentucky State Penitentiary (left)

Award presented by Warden Laura Plappert

Corrections Unit Administrator Marshall Peek began his career with the Department of Corrections in 2004 as a correctional officer at the Kentucky State Penitentiary (KSP). During this time, he worked various post across the institutions in a security role. In 2009, he was promoted to engineer. In 2012, Mr. Peek was promoted to Classification and Treatment Officer. In 2023 Mr. Peek was promoted once again to unit administrator I, where he oversaw general population, the special security unit, and minimum unit at KSP. Mr. Peek was appointed to acting unit administrator II overseeing restrictive housing at KSP February 2025. In April 2025 Peek was promoted to unit administrator II. He has put in a great deal of time and effort to working towards keeping the Restrictive Housing Units running, assisting security, and training new staff. For these reasons, Marshall Peek is a worthy recipient of the 2025 Achievement Award.

Timothy Utley – Kentucky State Penitentiary (right)

Award presented by Warden Laura Plappert

Timothy Utley began his dedicated service as a correctional officer at the Kentucky State Penitentiary (KSP) in 2015. Throughout his tenure at KSP, Utley has consistently demonstrated an exemplary attendance record, which is a testament to his commitment and reliability. Utley is widely recognized for his consistently positive and professional demeanor when interacting with both staff and inmates. He frequently goes above and beyond his assigned duties, readily assisting colleagues with tasks even when it's inconvenient or falls outside his direct responsibilities. This proactive and helpful approach makes him an invaluable team member. Furthermore, he serves as a role model for all staff, regardless of their experience level. He consistently conducts himself with the highest degree of integrity and professionalism, embodying the core values of the Kentucky Department of Corrections. His unwavering dedication and outstanding conduct make him a significant asset, not only to the Kentucky State Penitentiary but to all of Corrections. It is for these reasons he has earned the 2025 Achievement Award.

2025 Adult Institutions Achievement Award



Jesus Gonzalez – Kentucky State Reformatory (left)

Award presented by Warden Anna Valentine

Correctional Captain Jesus Gonzalez began his correctional career as a correctional officer at the Kentucky State Reformatory (KSR) in 2012. He rose quickly through the ranks and achieved the rank of correctional captain in 2020. He has been one of KSR's day shift captains ever since. Gonzalez believes in professional discipline, dedication, and doing the job right and in accordance to policy. Gonzalez has a long stretch of perfect attendance and due to KSR's staff shortage, he works volunteer overtime frequently, often 6 or even 7 days a week. He has also been a dedicated member of KSR's Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) since 2013. For his exemplary service, commitment to the profession, leadership abilities, and high standards he sets for himself and others, Captain Jesus Gonzalez is more than deserving of a 2025 Kentucky Department of Corrections Achievement Award.

Clarissa McCarthy – Kentucky State Reformatory (not pictured)

Award presented by Warden Anna Valentine

Clarissa McCarthy began her correctional career as a postal technician II at the Kentucky State Reformatory (KSR) in 2023. She is responsible for the overall operation of the institution's mail services-for both the staff and the inmate population. McCarthy is always friendly, devoted to her duties, efficient, and works well with staff and inmates. Moreover, McCarthy works together with internal affairs and security to stop attempts to introduce contraband into the institution via mail and packages. She has been instrumental in many finds, both big and small, which helps maintain the safety and security of the institution. For her dedicated service, professionalism, and skill, Postal Technician II Clarissa McCarthy is more than deserving of a 2025 Kentucky Department of Corrections Achievement Award.

2025 Adult Institutions Achievement Award



Jordan Turner – Lee Adjustment Center
Award presented by Warden Daniel Akers

After beginning his employment at Lee Adjustment Center as a Records Clerk in July 2018, Jordan Turner was promoted to a newly created position of Internal Affairs Officer in May 2023. Working under the facility's Internal Affairs Investigator and alongside our SGT Officer, Mr. Turner hit the ground running and has continuously excelled not only in efforts to prevent the introduction of contraband into our facility, but also in locating and taking possession of any contraband that does make its way in. Mr. Turner's efforts have made a significant impact on our ability to maintain a safe and secure environment for our inmates to live and staff to work. From listening to inmate phone calls, watching surveillance cameras and conducting investigations of inmate incidents, to searching vehicles of visitors and staff, the one thing that is always certain is that Mr. Turner is working hard to perform his job duties to the highest degree of excellence.

2025 Adult Institutions Achievement Award



Roderick Garris – Little Sandy Correctional Complex (right)

Award presented by Warden Ivan Krow

Locksmith Administrator Roderick Garris demonstrates professionalism, technical expertise, and unwavering dedication to safety and security each day. Over the past year, Garris successfully streamlined the key management system for Little Sandy Correctional Complex's upcoming expansion. Additionally, he played a crucial role in the maintenance of over 200 lock systems while causing minimal disruption to the daily operations of the facility. Beyond technical excellence, Garris is a trusted staff member and has become a great mentor, always willing to support colleagues and by sharing best practices. His attention to detail, integrity, and problem-solving capabilities have made a lasting impact on Little Sandy Correctional Complex. For these reasons, Locksmith Administrator Roderick Garris is highly deserving of this award.

Heather Jarvis – Little Sandy Correctional Complex (left)

Award presented by Warden Ivan Krow

Deputy Warden of Programs Heather Jarvis has provided exceptional leadership, performance, dedication, innovation, and unwavering commitment to help rehabilitate those incarcerated and to successfully help prepare them to return to their communities. While working with the reentry team, their workshops have improved inmate program participation and positively impacted institutional behavior. She inspires her staff and inmates to strive for excellence and to pursue their goals-making a positive impact for themselves and others. She encourages those incarcerated to apply for institutional jobs and programs, and listens to their ideas pertaining to programming. She works with community organizations and volunteers to help improve the institution and makes decisions that are firm, fair, and consistent. Heather Jarvis consistently demonstrates innovation and accountability, always mentoring, always providing great leadership. It is for these reasons that she is a deserving recipient of a 2025 Achievement Award.

2025 Adult Institutions Achievement Award



Ginger Melton–Luther Lockett Correctional Complex *Award presented by Shannon Butrum*

Ginger Melton is an administrative specialist at Luther Lockett Correctional Complex and has over 20 years with the Department of Corrections, beginning in 2002 with the Division of Probation and Parole. Melton manages a wide variety of administrative tasks that ensure the office of the Deputy Warden of Security works at peak efficiency. This includes assisting with visitation, scheduling attorney visits, monitoring the theft report process, managing the admin building janitors and talking to inmate families. Melton is the definition of a team player and will step in to assist anyone at LLCC, no matter what they need. She consistently goes above and beyond the requirements of her job, inspiring others with her kindness and setting a high standard of excellence. Ginger Melton's

contributions have made a lasting difference at LLCC and makes her a deserving recipient of a 2025 Achievement Award.

Ruben Morales – Luther Lockett Correctional Complex *Award presented by Warden Shannon Butrum*

Correctional Lieutenant Ruben Morales is assigned to the Internal Affairs department and is the Security Threat Group (STG) Coordinator for the Luther Lockett Correctional Complex. Morales consistently demonstrates exemplary performance, innovation, and dedication in his ability to monitor security threat group activity in a facility of over 1,100 inmates. He goes the extra mile to ensure inmates are assessed accurately, and that communication and activity is monitored on a continuous basis. He never hesitates to share his outstanding knowledge of STG identifiers with staff that want to learn. Most of his work is completed in the background, so it's not seen by many, but all his efforts have contributed significantly to the safety of the staff and inmates at LLCC. Correctional Lieutenant Ruben Morales is a true team player and always steps in when we need help. His leadership is characterized by reliability and integrity and has earned a 2025 Achievement Award.



2025 Adult Institutions Achievement Award



Austin Childress – Northpoint Training Center (right)
Award presented by Warden Abigail Caudill

Correctional Officer Austin Childress consistently exhibits outstanding job performance and reliability, maintaining a perfect attendance record that underscores his dedication and dependability. He approaches his responsibilities with a strong work ethic and professionalism, ensuring the safety and security of the facility are always prioritized. Childress demonstrates an innovative approach to his duties by seeking better ways to handle daily challenges and improving operations. He is eager to learn and grow, actively pursuing opportunities to enhance his skills and knowledge. His leadership qualities are apparent through his willingness to support and mentor fellow staff members, fostering a positive and collaborative work environment. Childress embodies integrity, accountability, and respect, exemplifying the good character expected of a Corrections employee. Through his commitment, adaptability, and positive attitude, Correctional Officer Austin Childress stands out as an asset to the Department and is highly deserving of this award.

Jann Henriksen – Northpoint Training Center (left)
Award presented by Warden Abigail Caudill

Corrections Unit Administrator II Jann Henriksen started work at Northpoint Training Center (NTC) as a classification and treatment officer. She promoted to Unit Administrator I and then to Unit Administrator II. Henriksen also serves as the assistant team leader for the NTC Crisis Negotiation Team. Henriksen takes initiative to address any issues or concerns within her assigned area and responsibilities. She has confidence in her knowledge of policies and procedures regarding and has long served as the “go-to” for newer staff to learn from. Henriksen implements new procedures that enhance institutional safety and security. She has supervised all dorms within NTC and left a positive mark on each one. She is dependable and has a great working relationship with all departments, assisting them if needed. Henriksen is always wearing a smile, and her positive attitude is infectious. Through her commitment, adaptability, and positive attitude, Corrections Unit Administrator II Henriksen stands out as an asset to Corrections and is highly deserving of this award.

2025 Adult Institutions Achievement Award



Lyndzy Obremski – Roederer Correctional Complex (left)
Award presented by Warden Ravonne Sims

Lyndzy Obremski began her career at Roederer Correctional Complex (RCC) in 2020. She has served in the roles of offender information specialist, correctional officer, classification and treatment officer, and her current role of corrections unit administrator I. Previously assigned to the Assessment and Classification Center, Obremski is presently assigned to a diverse general population dormitory that includes a large substance abuse treatment program. She was the recipient of the RCC Non-Uniform Employee of the Year Award in 2024. She consistently demonstrates excellence in her role, leadership, and attention to detail. Beyond those qualities, Obremski embodies the values of RCC with teamwork, integrity, and fostering a positive culture. She embraces all new challenges she is assigned and is dedicated to supporting the security functions of the prison demonstrated by her unwavering commitment to cover correctional officer posts where needed. Lyndzy Obremski's commitment to support all operations of the facility is remarkable and makes her a worthy recipient of the 2025 Achievement Award.

Aaron Wilson – Roederer Correctional Complex (right)
Award presented by Warden Ravonne Sims

Locksmith Administrator Aaron Wilson began his career at Roederer Correctional Complex in 2019. In 2021, he received the Supervisor of the Quarter award and received the RCC Employee of the Year in 2024 and serves on the RCC Corrections Emergency Response Team. Wilson has held the positions of correctional officer, correctional sergeant, correctional lieutenant, offender information specialist and currently serves as the institution's locksmith and tool control administrator. He is a tremendous asset to RCC, always taking on any additional task he is asked to perform. He is knowledgeable of all posts in the facility and will volunteer to run a shift when needed. His diversity in his work experiences and outstanding work ethic make him a vital asset of RCC. Aaron Wilson is reliable, dependable, and has an unwavering commitment to Roederer Correctional Complex, making him an ideal recipient of the 2025 Achievement Award.

2025 Adult Institutions Achievement Award



Kyle Isaac – Southeast State Correctional Complex (left)

Award presented by Warden Jacob Bruce

Classification and Treatment Officer Kyle Isaac is a wonderful example of someone that strives to be the very best at his job. He takes on many tasks and wears many hats at Southeast State Correctional Complex. Kyle was recently reassigned as the CTO in SMU. Kyle picked up a general population case load in addition to his SMU duties when one of our other CTOs was tasked with reentry initiatives. He is also the first Backup transfer coordinator and takes transports on a routine basis. He also works security any time that it is needed, assists human resources with interview panels for correctional officers, and since he has experience in recreation, he also assists the recreation department in planning of events and tournaments as well. Kyle is a well-rounded employee that works hard at anything he does. His dedication to the mission of Corrections makes Kyle Isaac a deserving recipient of the 2025 Achievement Award.

Mitchell Justice – Southeast State Correctional Complex (right)

Award presented by Warden Jacob Bruce

Correctional Officer Mitchell Justice is currently assigned to oversee the laundry department as well as sanitation at Southeast State Correctional Complex. Justice has brought with him many innovative approaches and new ideas to the inventory processes and sanitation procedures for the institution. Since taking over laundry and sanitation, he has found ways to save the institution money as well as easing wear and tear on equipment. He has maintained the highest standards of documentation and has enabled better controls on inventories for tools and cleaning chemicals. He works hard to ensure that the institutional laundry has the materials it needs to work with and meets standards for sanitation. He has been a true team player and a huge asset to Southeast State. It is for these reasons that Mitchell Justice is a deserving recipient of a 2025 Achievement Award.

2025 Adult Institutions Achievement Award



Zakkary Eubanks – Western Kentucky Correctional Complex (left)

Award presented by Warden Bobbi Jo Butts

Correctional Captain Zakkary Eubanks exemplifies the best qualities of a Corrections employee. As the AM Shift Supervisor, Eubanks oversees more than sixty security staff and the day-to-day operation of the correctional facility. He always maintains a positive attitude when dealing with staff and inmates. He also constantly tries to bring that positive attitude out of his staff. Eubanks acts as the institution's Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) commander. Eubanks does an excellent job of preparing and training the team to ensure they are ready to respond to any critical incident that may happen in the institution. His dedication to the institution is admirable and he is the type of supervisor who will call the shift on his day off to ensure everything is fine and ensure they don't need help. Zakkary Eubanks is deserving of the Achievement Award for all these reasons and many more.

Tim Johnston – Western Kentucky Correctional Complex (right)

Award presented by Warden Bobbi Jo Butts

Maintenance Branch Manager Tim Johnston's work ethic and dedication to the institution deserves recognition. Since last fall, Western Kentucky Correctional Complex has had two major capital construction and renovation projects occurring simultaneously. Johnston has coordinated three or four groups of contractors each day while insuring the upkeep of the institution. In addition, this has all occurred while the maintenance department is short staffed. Johnston leads by example; he does not hesitate to lend a hand or get his hands dirty. He ensures work around the institution gets done, regardless of the weather. He can often be found at the institution at odd hours, weekends and holidays setting high expectations for his employees. He is a wealth of knowledge and a jack of all trades. For these reasons and many more, Tim Johnston is a deserving recipient of the 2025 Achievement Award.

Probation and Parole Achievement Awards

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2025 Probation and Parole Achievement Award



Michael McClain – District 1 Probation and Parole *Award presented by District Supervisor Angela Lindsay*

Probation and Parole Officer Michael McClain began his employment at District 1 Probation and Parole in 2018 as an officer in the Paducah Office. From day one, McClain has treated every challenge as an opportunity to learn and contribute. He is diligent, self-motivated, and detail-oriented. McClain previously served as a field training officer and is currently a firearms instructor. He is always the first to volunteer for additional assignments and is always available to assist anyone in need. He is an asset to District 1, doing anything asked of him and always with a positive attitude. In recognition of his unwavering reliability, self-direction, and his ability to always exceed expectations, Michael McClain is most deserving of this Achievement Award.

Jessica Henderson – District 2 Probation and Parole *Award presented by District Supervisor Jonathan Vincent*

Jessica Henderson began her career with the Department of Corrections in 2018 as a probation and parole officer in District 3 before transferring to the Russellville office in District 2 in November 2019. Henderson supervises a caseload of parolees and probationers in Logan County and serves as a field training officer for the Russellville office. She also serves as a Fentanyl responder, CPR trainer, and was formerly the Russellville safety officer. She is always willing to help her fellow officers with daily tasks, arrests, and paperwork. She is extremely helpful to clients that come into the office and genuinely cares about their success. As a field training officer, she works closely with new officers to ensure they are properly trained. For these reasons and countless more, Probation and Parole Officer Jessica Henderson is deserving of the 2025 District 2 Achievement Award.



2025 Probation and Parole Achievement Award



Lauren Wilson – District 3 Probation and Parole

Award presented by Central Region Branch Manager Heather Meredith

Officer Lauren Wilson began her career with the Probation and Parole in 2012. She is currently responsible for supervision of all offenders assigned to the Men’s Addiction Recovery Center in Warren County. Her caseload also includes offenders who have successfully completed the program. In addition to her responsibilities at MARC, Wilson is a field training officer, fentanyl responder, and the court liaison for Warren County. Wilson adapts to change without hesitation and is a role model to her fellow staff. Her co-workers rely on her for her vast knowledge of probation and parole and ability to maintain her composure during high stress situations. She is highly respected by local law enforcement, community partners, judges and attorneys. Her dedication and commitment to Probation and Parole and District 3 is exemplified daily in her professionalism and performance. These are just some of the many reasons why Lauren Wilson is worthy of the 2025 District 3 Achievement Award.

Shawmeka Lester– District 4 Probation and Parole

Award presented by District Supervisor Heather Foster

Since beginning her career as an Officer with Probation and Parole in January 2018, Shawmeka Lester has consistently upheld the highest standards in accountability, teamwork, and client engagement. She proactively supports new initiatives, showcasing her flexibility and drive to help others. She maintains a strong command of communication, honed through her role as a certified Crisis Negotiator, and fosters professional relationships that benefit both clients and colleagues. As a PSI Officer, Lester delivers thorough, timely, and policy-driven reports. She is equally known for her generosity in supporting her peers, routinely assisting with duty day coverage, helping those who are behind, and promoting wellness. Her presence boosts morale and reinforces a culture of teamwork and compassion. What truly sets her apart is the empathy and support she provides to clients. Her compassion, professionalism, and strong communication skills enable her to build trust and provide thoughtful, individualized guidance that leaves a lasting impact. District 4 is stronger because of her, and she is truly deserving of the 2025 Achievement Award.



2025 Probation and Parole Achievement Award



Michael York – District 5 Probation and Parole
Award presented by District Supervisor William Herald

Officer Michael York possesses and demonstrates the highest level of professionalism. Officer York consistently and continually assists the district with conducting field operations, Duty Officer duties, drug screenings, and duties at both the Hart County and Hardin County Detention Centers. In addition, York has volunteered and was selected as the District 5 First Aid Instructor, Firearms Instructor and TI Instructor. Due to his professionalism and high-quality management skills, he was able to recertify the entire district during First Aid Training this year. York also performed admirably during annual firearms training, assisting other officers with their firearm techniques and providing a safe training environment. York is the one of the most dependable, calm, and highly composed individuals currently working in this demanding profession. York has high moral and ethical standards, which shows when he conducts PSI investigations and routine office visits, which result in him gaining the rapport of his clients as well as their respect. Due to his tireless efforts in supporting the District 5, Officer Michael York is a worthy recipient of the District 5 Achievement Award.

Samantha Bright – District 6 Probation and Parole
Award presented by District Supervisor Charece Brown

Officer Michael York possesses and demonstrates the highest level of professionalism. Officer York consistently and continually assists the district with conducting field operations, Duty Officer duties, drug screenings, and duties at both the Hart County and Hardin County Detention Centers. In addition, York has volunteered and was selected as the District 5 First Aid Instructor, Firearms Instructor and TI Instructor. Due to his professionalism and high-quality management skills, he was able to recertify the entire district during First Aid Training this year. York also performed admirably during annual firearms training, assisting other officers with their firearm techniques and providing a safe training environment. York is the one of the most dependable, calm, and highly composed individuals currently working in this demanding profession. York has high moral and ethical standards, which shows when he conducts PSI investigations and routine office visits, which result in him gaining the rapport of his clients as well as their respect. Due to his tireless efforts in supporting the District 5, Officer Michael York is a worthy recipient of the District 5 Achievement Award.



2025 Probation and Parole Achievement Award



Konner Frost – District 7 Probation and Parole *Award presented by District Supervisor Taliyah Jefferson*

Officer Konner Frost leads by example and represents DOC well in the community and has earned the respect of the entire District 7 team. He demonstrates the highest professional standards in the office, at court, and in the field. Frost is punctual, organized and his caseload is well-managed. He is quick to volunteer for additional duties, transports, arrests, and is always willing to assist his fellow officers. He has volunteered to go to extra trainings such as train the trainer and range safety officer. Field Training Officers have trainees sit with him to observe caseload management. Frost is often requested/selected to assist with difficult home visits or arrests due to his calm demeanor and demonstration of his knowledge of policy and procedure. Frost treats everyone with respect and dignity and is a true asset to District 7 and the DOC. For these reasons – and more – Officer Konner Frost is deserving of the District 7 Achievement Award for 2025.

John Wesley Cooper – District 8 Probation and Parole *Award presented by District Supervisor Mitchell King*

Probation and Parole Officer John Wesley Cooper began his career with the Department of Corrections in July 2018 as a correctional officer at Northpoint Training Center. In February 2021 Cooper became a probation and parole officer in the District 8, covering a Madison County caseload. In April 2024, he began supervising Bluegrass Career Development Center located in Richmond, Kentucky. Throughout Cooper's career he has covered circuit court and wrote PSIs. Additionally, Cooper is lead firearms instructor, GLOCK armorer, field training officer, and Prison Rape Elimination Act investigator. Cooper is always willing to help his fellow co-workers and answers the call when needed by his supervisors. For all the reasons listed above District 8 is very proud to name John Wesley Cooper as our 2025 Achievement Award Winner.



2025 Probation and Parole Achievement Award



Vanda Flickinger – District 9 Probation and Parole Award presented by District Supervisor Josh King

Vanda Flickinger is an indispensable member of the District 9 management team. In her new role as administrative specialist senior, she oversees all administrative staff and functions for the district. Much of the role of an administrative specialist happens behind the scenes and outside the view of the casual observer. But an office absolutely cannot effectively complete mission-critical operations without quality administrative staff. Flickinger and her work exemplifies that truth. When the District was without an administrative specialist to work the front reception area for a period of nearly a year, she gave up her telecommuting schedule and postponed leave to make sure that operations were not

diminished. For this reason and countless more, Vanda Flickinger is a deserving recipient of the 2025 District 9 Employee Achievement Award.

Krystal Grubbs – District 10 Probation and Parole Award presented by District Supervisor Barry Cochrane

Krystal Grubbs began her career with the Kentucky Department of Corrections on May 1, 2023, as a probation and parole officer in the Manchester Office. While in Manchester, Grubbs has been the office's PSI Investigator, covering the Clay, Jackson, and Leslie circuit courts. This has required time management skills to meet a demanding sentencing deadline schedule. During her time with probation and parole, Grubbs has completed her duties without complaint, and regularly assists other offices and districts with PSI interviews and DNA collection. She is well-organized in her work and is always quick to lend a helping hand to fellow staff members, and those of other offices or districts. She has proven



to be a highly dependable employee and has gained the trust of her co-workers and supervisory staff. For these reasons, Officer Krystal Grubbs is a worthy recipient of the 2025 District 10 Achievement Award.

2025 Probation and Parole Achievement Award



Brittney Hernandez – District 11 Probation and Parole Award presented by District Supervisor John Vanhose

Brittney Hernandez began her career with the Division of Probation and Parole in 2018, as an officer in the Hazard Probation and Parole Office. Hernandez's immediately made an impact due to her work ethic and willingness to learn. She is currently a District 11 CPR instructor, field training officer, and supervises a probation caseload in Pike County. Hernandez can be counted on as a leader in the office and in the community, improving the lives of clients and staff alike. From late night transports to training new staff, she is always willing to jump in and tackle anything that is needed. Her dedication is an

inspiration to the rest of District 11. For these reasons and many more, Brittney Hernandez a deserving recipient of the 2025 District 11 Achievement Award.

Charles Hunter – District 12 Probation and Parole Award presented by District Supervisor Lindsey Smith

Probation and Parole Officer Charles Hunter continues to demonstrate his hard work and dedication to the Department of Corrections. In late 2023, Officer Hunter transferred to the Shelbyville Probation & Parole Office taking over a caseload of approximately 110 offenders. Hunter has worked tirelessly, and his caseload now averages 70 offenders. He continues to show his leadership and professional development by being a field training officer, lead firearms instructor, District 12 armorer, CPR/first aid trainer and Shelby County Drug Court officer. The District 12 supervisory staff has entrusted Hunter with these job assignments due to his trustworthiness, dedication and overall good character. District 12 is fortunate to have such an outstanding officer, and this is why Charles Hunter is the perfect candidate for the 2025 District 12 Achievement Award.



2025 Probation and Parole Achievement Award



Jacey Jones– District 13 Probation and Parole *Award presented by District Supervisor Angela English*

Officer Jacey Jones began his career in January 2007 with the Kentucky Department of Corrections, initially supervising a caseload in Grayson County. He subsequently transferred to Christian County before moving into the HIP CTO program. Later, he transitioned to District 13, overseeing a regular caseload and serving as the Class D/HIP officer. Over the years, Jones has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication to his duties and has become an invaluable asset to District 13. He exhibits the highest level of professionalism in all aspects of his role. His integrity and reliability have earned the trust and respect of colleagues and supervisors alike. Jones readily responds to special requests from supervisory staff, consistently delivering results and adapting to evolving priorities. His proactive attitude reflects strongly in his ability to maintain safety, manage caseloads, and support departmental goals with minimal oversight. It is for these reasons that Jacey Jones is deserving of the 2025 District 13 Achievement Award.

Caitlynn Chumbley – District 14 Probation and Parole *Award presented by District Supervisor Steve Heddleston*

The last nine months in District 14 have been a time of transition as officers have departed via transfer and retirement. Probation & Parole Officer Caitlynn Chumbley has stepped up and answered the call. She currently serves as a field training officer for the Versailles probation office. The Scott and Woodford Circuit Courts have come to rely on her assistance and input with both the drug court and mental health court programs. Despite having her own caseload with additional cases added due to an officer vacancy, she has continued to volunteer to review inactive cases for possible termination. Chumbley is among the first to volunteer for any field operation or transport. If administrative staff are on leave, she is usually the first person to cover their workstation without being asked. Her work is timely, accurate, and always within policy-exemplifying what a Corrections professional should be. It is for these reasons Officer Caitlynn Chumbley is a worthy recipient of District 14's Achievement Award for 2025.



2025 Probation and Parole Achievement Award



Mark Bryant – District 15 Probation and Parole *Award presented by District Supervisor Susan Buskirk*

Officer Mark Bryant started with Probation and Parole in March 2022 and initially supervised a caseload in Boyd County. He quickly became part of the team and demonstrated his dedication with his quick responses to inquiries and professional demeanor. Bryant is currently serving as the Class D and HIP Officer for District 15 as well as assisting with writing pre-sentence investigations. He routinely volunteers to take on extra duties, including transports, helping cover the front desk and walk in inquiries from the public. He displays good leadership qualities with his candor and sets a good example. He doesn't shy away from learning new aspects of his job and has volunteered to become a field training officer. Also, Bryant's excellent communication skills have helped to develop a good rapport with local jails. It is for all these reasons that Mark Bryant is a deserving recipient of the 2025 District 15 Achievement Award.

Brett Arnett – District 16 Probation and Parole *Award presented by District Supervisor Timothy Walker*

Since joining Probation and Parole District 16 in 2023, Officer Brett Arnett has quickly become an asset to the team. His dedication, professionalism, and commitment to the department's mission are evident in all aspects of his work. He serves as both a field training officer (FTO) and a firearms instructor, playing a key role in mentoring and training new officers. He leads by example and consistently demonstrates integrity, accountability, and a strong work ethic. Arnett is always willing to set aside his own tasks to ensure the needs of the district are met. He frequently volunteers for extra duties and assists with transports and coverage, especially during staffing shortages. Arnett takes a proactive approach to professional development, embraces change, and actively seeks opportunities to grow. This not only supports his own development but also strengthens the overall effectiveness of the team. Officer Brett Arnett's leadership, initiative, and commitment to the agency make him a standout officer and a highly deserving recipient of the 2025 District 16 Achievement Award.



2025 Probation and Parole Achievement Award



Olivia Lacefield – District 17 Probation and Parole Award presented by District Supervisor Colter Turner

Officer Olivia Lacefield began her career with District 17 Probation and Parole in 2021. Seeing Lacefield's potential, she was tasked with overseeing a parole-specific caseload on day one. Since then, she has worked in her position tirelessly and often found more efficient ways of running the caseload.

In addition to flawlessly completing her normal duties, she is often quick to volunteer to help a fellow officer out whether it be home visits, arrests, hearing coverage, completing hospital details or to even serve paperwork. Each day, she brings a positive attitude and a smile to the office and is looked up to by her co-workers and supervisors. She is the embodiment of professionalism and

integrity. District 17 is proud to recognize Officer Olivia Lacefield with its 2025 Achievement Award.

William Lacy – District 18 Probation and Parole Award presented by District Supervisor Amber Ryan

Probation and Parole Officer William "Ash" Lacy is a dedicated and highly respected member of the District 18 team. Officer Lacy serves in multiple specialized roles, including as a security threat group (STG) liaison, a member of the Crisis Negotiation Team, and the district's Veteran's Affairs liaison. His work in each of these areas demonstrates a strong commitment to public safety and offender rehabilitation. Lacy actively builds and maintains strong partnerships with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, enhancing interagency collaboration and improving supervision outcomes. His ability to network and communicate across jurisdictions has made him an essential resource to both our district and the department's public safety efforts. In addition to his assigned duties, he frequently volunteers to assist with district needs and is always one of the first to step up when help is needed. Lacy's reliability, professionalism, and commitment to excellence make him an invaluable asset. We are proud to recognize Officer William Lacy as the District 18 Achievement Award winner for 2025.



2025 Probation and Parole Achievement Award



Jessica Bartley – District 19 Probation and Parole Award presented by District Supervisor Mike Mitchell

Officer Jessica Bartley began her corrections career in 2013 as a corrections officer. After promoting to correctional sergeant, Bartley joined the ranks of Probation and Parole in 2015. She is an integral part of the team at District 19 making a deep impact, not only in the district, but the division. Bartley recently volunteered to supervise the District 19 sex offender caseload, and previously supervised a parole caseload. She heads the district 19 employee of the quarter committee, is the staff wellness liaison, is a defensive tactics instructor, PREA investigator, and a FTO. Bartley is the quintessential team-player, always willing to volunteer to help, teach, coach, volunteer, or simply brighten someone's day. She is well respected by those under her supervision, her colleagues, and managers alike. We congratulate Officer Bartley for being named the 2025 District 19 Achievement Award Winner.

Winston Shelton – District 20 Probation and Parole Award presented by District Supervisor Keith Hedgespeth

Winston Shelton began his career with the Department of Corrections in 2014 as a correctional officer at Northpoint Training Center. After promoting to correctional sergeant and correctional lieutenant of Internal Affairs, Shelton transferred to Probation and Parole in 2021. He quickly displayed his skills as a leader in not only the Somerset office and District 20, but in all of P&P as the Security Threat Group (STG) administrator. In this role, Shelton presents the STG presentation at pre-service academy and in-service. In addition to his normal duties supervising sex offenders in District 20, Shelton is a field training officer and lead firearms instructor. His attention to detail is one of his most valuable assets earning him the praise and respect of his co-workers, supervisors and community leaders. Due to the many outstanding qualities listed above, District 20 is proud to name Winston Shelton as its 2025 Achievement Award winner.



Divisional Achievement Awards

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Deputy Commissioner Awards

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2025 Divisional Achievement Award



Marty Ballard – Reentry Services

Award presented by Director Kristin Porter

Marty Ballard is a true asset to the Division of Reentry Services and Department. She thinks outside of the box and consistently goes above and beyond what is asked and expected to provide the best outcomes for the division. Ballard always enthusiastically takes on extra job duties. She is a natural teacher and eagerly shares her knowledge with co-workers and newly hired staff. Ballard is a certified program trainer for the Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) and PORTAL New Directions programs. She also plays a crucial role in assisting with the maintenance of the Department's course catalogs and the entirety of programming-related responsibilities for the division. Marty Ballard's skill and enthusiasm are infectious, and it is for these reasons and many more that she is deserving of the 2025 Reentry Achievement Award.

Allasandra Cunningham – Support Services

Award presented by Director Amanda Sayle

Allasandra Cunningham demonstrates exceptional problem-solving skills, a collaborative spirit, and an unwavering commitment to excellence in every task. Cunningham plays a critical role in ensuring the timely and accurate processing of releases, directly impacting public safety and local facility operations. She is always willing to help other section supervisors. Her dedication, calm demeanor under pressure, and commitment to excellence makes her an invaluable asset to our team. Her impact has been deeply appreciated across the organization. An example of her unwavering commitment to the success of Support Services is that she was short-staffed for an extended period while managing only one additional employee, she handled the complex and time-sensitive process of releasing a high volume of inmates each month with remarkable precision and professionalism by jumping in and taking on extra roles to assist her section. The environment is fast-paced and high-stakes, requiring constant attention, an ability to shift priorities, and meeting urgent deadlines. Allasandra Cunningham's excellence in meeting every challenge makes her a deserving recipient of a 2025 Achievement Award.



2025 Divisional Achievement Award



Mandy Durrett – Adult Institutions

Award presented by Director Janet Conover

Whether she is working with our institutional staff, contractors, answering phone calls and responding to written correspondence, Mandy Durrett displays the utmost professionalism in whatever she does. She is one of the nicest people that you will ever meet, always having a smile on her face and always looking for the positive in every situation to promote a good working environment. Her kind demeanor makes the work environment better and helps foster a strong team dynamic. Durrett has a passion for her role as Food Service Branch Manager, working to ensure the nutritional needs of our population are met. This dedication is vital in maintaining the health and security of our institutions. For her

commitment to excellence, Mandy Durrett is a most-deserving recipient of the Adult Institutions Division Achievement Award for 2025.

Keesha Solomon-Public Affairs

Award presented by Director Beth Moore

Keesha Solomon is a standout member of the Public Affairs Office, who has received this achievement award for her exceptional work and unwavering dedication. She plays a vital role in managing the department's high volume of open records requests—ensuring timely, accurate, and professional responses that reflect our commitment to transparency and public trust. Her ability to navigate complex inquiries with clarity and care, as well as her ability to work with different state and local agencies, has made her an invaluable part of the Kentucky Department of Corrections. Keesha Solomon's work behind the scenes helps keep our communications strong, our processes smooth, and our values front and center.



2025 Divisional Achievement Award



Whitney Clatworthy – Administrative Services *Award presented by Director Mike McKinney*

Whitney Clatworthy has been an asset to the Division of Administrative Services since her arrival in February 2024. Her work ethic and attention to detail has helped her achieve a high level of success in our division. These qualities have also helped the division improve its services and the morale of our employees. She works to solve problems as they occur and asks the appropriate questions to get the key information needed to resolve any issue efficiently. She has completed her own job duties as well as assisted various other fiscal operations such as KCI, WKCC, NTC, SSCC, & BCC to help ease their workloads during staff shortages. Her hard work and dedication to achieving departmental success make her

an ideal candidate for the 2025 Administrative Services Division Award.

Celeste Hurtt– Corrections Training *Award presented by Director Kenny Talbott*

Celeste Hurtt exemplifies precision, organization, and unwavering helpfulness in every task she undertakes. Whether accepting a new assignment or navigating a challenging training request, she approaches each endeavor with a positive outlook and delivers impactful results with remarkable efficiency. Her background in linguistics, coupled with exceptional presentation skills, adds depth and originality to her subject-matter delivery. Drawing from her jail-based experience, she seamlessly bridges the gap between county-level practices and Corrections, offering clarity and professionalism in every interaction. Hurtt's curriculum insight is unmatched—her constructive feedback enhances course content and elevates training quality. She also lends her clear and engaging voice to multiple CBT modules within the department. With keen insight, forward-thinking vision, and an eye for policy, Hurtt demonstrates management potential and a talent for thinking outside the box. Celeste Hurtt is, without question, a tremendous asset to the Department of Corrections and a deserving nominee for the Division of Corrections Training Achievement Award.



2025 Divisional Achievement Award



Pam Clayton-Compliance Division *Award presented by Director John Dunn*

During Pam Clayton's tenure the DOC has conducted 17 successful Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audits with no major failures in standards, which is phenomenal success rate. One of the major reasons the Department has had success in this area is due to her diligence in conducting mock audits, ensuring all standards are met. Due to her expertise and oversight, halfway houses have also maintained PREA compliance during her tenure in this position. She is also diligent in conducting training with staff at the facilities to ensure they understand the PREA process properly and performs this function multiple times a year. She also oversees the investigative process into PREA complaints and provides guidance, training and critique to investigations when they are completed. Due to her leadership in this area the Department continually exceeds the requirements for compliance with PREA. She is a dedicated employee who constantly pushes for higher standards and for these reasons Pam Clayton is deserving of the Division's Achievement Award.

Mary Martin-Education Division *Award presented by Amber Skaggs*

Serving in a statewide capacity, Mary Martin administers all education good time awards, develops, implements, and enforces policies and procedures that guide critical program operations across Kentucky. Her work is distinguished by precision and purpose. She actively collects, edits, and analyzes program data to identify key issues impacting the criminal justice system in Kentucky. Notably, as the registrar for the Division of Education, Mary's efforts in FY25 have led to the processing of 1,198 pathway completions, resulting in the award of 107,820 Educational Good Time days. These achievements have a direct and measurable impact on reducing incarceration-related operating costs, while simultaneously advancing rehabilitation and reentry outcomes for incarcerated individuals. Mary is an advocate of education and the rehabilitative process, highlighting the mission of the DOC. Mary's exemplary performance, strategic leadership, and unwavering dedication make her highly deserving of the 2025 Achievement Award.



2025 Divisional Achievement Award



Tiffany Shepherd-Addiction Services *Award presented by Jeannie Waldrige*

Tiffany Shepherd was hired as Human Services Program Supervisor for SAP and SOAR at Northpoint Training Center in October 2024. Since she started as a supervisor, she has been given the enormous task of filling numerous staff vacancies. Due to the number of vacancies, she not only had to learn and perform her supervisor responsibilities, but she also had to carry a caseload, process groups and educational groups and complete documentation per policy guidelines. In her short tenure as supervisor, she has been audited by Addiction Services for both SAP and SOAR and AODE Behavioral Health for licensure. She passed all audits with zero deficiencies. Her “can do” attitude to her incredibly difficult job, has been inspiring to everyone she works with daily. She continues to strive in her position and puts the well-being of her clients a priority. Tiffany Shepherd has demonstrated great leadership with her ability to handle so many difficult tasks with professionalism and integrity, making her a deserving recipient of this award.

Deputy Commissioner Awards

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2025 Deputy Commissioner Award



Janet Conover – Adult Institutions

Award presented by Deputy Commissioner Scott Jordan

Director Janet Conover has served Corrections for over 30 years in various roles in both institutions and in the Central Office, where she excelled in every job assigned her. She brings all this experience to bear in her current role. She works diligently to ensure the day-to-day operations of our 14 correctional facilities run smoothly and in compliance with law and policy. Her hard work ensures safe facilities for staff and offenders and safe communities for all Kentuckians. This job is not an easy one, as it encompasses a broad spectrum of responsibilities, from logistics, grievances, operations, managing incidents, and personnel management. This requires someone with the agility to shift from one task to another and Conover's talents, experience, and dedication allow her to do this with ease. The weight of these daily tasks has been compounded by the expansion of Little Sandy Correctional Complex and the construction of a new correctional facility in Lexington to replace the Kentucky State Reformatory. Conover has been instrumental in helping ensure these two projects have completed successfully and, within the timeframe prescribed by the Governor's Office and Legislature. Janet Conover has made Corrections a better place through her hard work and care and it is for these reasons and so many more that she is worthy of this award.

2025 Deputy Commissioner Award



Jessica Payton – Support Services

Award presented by Deputy Commissioner Hilary Dailey

Branch Manager Jessica Payton's dedication to excellence is exhibited each day and it does much to ensure the Compliance Branch meets its daily mission to ensure Corrections meets the standards laid out for it both by policy and law. She closely monitors Recovery Kentucky and Halfway House contracts worth millions of dollars, and this diligence ensures taxpayer money is well-spent and meets the requirements agreed to by both parties. She also collaborates with other sections to ensure reports are completed for accuracy and timeliness, guaranteeing that vital information regarding expenditures, bedspace, and facility usage are relayed to decision-makers in both the executive and legislative branches. This information provides in real time information both parties can use to guide and amend policies to both best serve the people of the Commonwealth and the offenders in our care. Jessica Payton's tireless efforts reflect great credit upon herself, the Compliance Division, and the Department of Corrections, and it is for these reasons and many more that she is a worthy recipient of the 2025 Deputy Commissioner's Award for Support Services.

2025 Deputy Commissioner Award



Katie Green – Reentry Services

Award presented by Deputy Commissioner Kim Potter-Blair

Katie Green is the Eastern Region Branch Manager for the Division of Reentry Services. Katie desires growth for herself, her staff and the Division. She is consistently willing to listen to feedback and makes efforts to improve her area. She takes time and consideration of her team members to understand each of their unique circumstances, to better communicate with them regarding areas of needed growth. Her passion to raise the next generation of leadership for the Department is promoting continual improvement in individual staff members and our overall team. She is astute in recognizing areas of need and will voluntarily take on extra duties to see that they are met. Katie's penchant for organization is one of her skills that frequently lends itself to her being relied on by leadership and her counterparts. Katie utilizes these skills to also ensure that our division is operating in an efficient and budget-conscious manner. Katie has been adept at taking barriers to daily operations and turning them into learning experiences for staff. Katie's dedication to her own personal growth, to her staff, to serving our population, and to this Division and Department make her worthy of recognition for her efforts.

**Probation and Parole
Supervisor of the Year**

Director of the Year

Warden of the Year

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2025 Probation and Parole Supervisor of the Year



Timothy Walker – District 16

Award presented by Deputy Commissioner Kim Potter-Blair

Timothy Walker has served with distinction throughout his career. He has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership, dedication, and a profound commitment to the mission and values of the Department of Corrections. He demonstrates all the traits you expect from a leader, and the efforts speak for themselves. He effectively manages his district, managing and mentoring staff, ensuring compliance with policies and procedures, and working to maintain good morale. He consistently motivates and inspires his team to achieve excellence. Timothy demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the intricacies of probation and parole, which makes him a trusted source of information. He stays abreast of latest developments in the field and ensures that our division implements best practices. Timothy sets a high standard of excellence, and his leadership motivates his staff to exceed those each day. His dedication to excellence is infectious and there is no one more deserving of this honor than Timothy Walker.

2025 Director of the Year



Amber Skaggs-Education Division
Award presented by Deputy Commissioner Scott Jordan

Education is crucial to successful reentry into the community for offenders and Amber Skaggs has worked to increase educational opportunities and outcomes throughout the department. She is passionate about the division and its mission and sets high standards for both staff and offenders. The Education Division works with other divisions and Amber has a spirit of collaboration to ensure her division's mission and the mission of other divisions are met collaboratively. This effort has contributed to some of the best recidivism rates the Commonwealth has seen in its history, as education provides opportunities for a brighter future. In addition to ensuring current course listings are maintained, she continually works to expand what is taught to offenders, helping ensure that offenders are given more opportunities to succeed. Amber Skaggs has embraced her role and what she has brought to the Education Division has done much to benefit the Department and Commonwealth as a whole. It is for these reasons that she is a deserving recipient of this award.

2025 Warden of the Year



Shawn McKenzie – Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex
Award presented by Deputy Commissioner Scott Jordan

Warden Shawn McKenzie has spent almost 30 years with the Department of Corrections, with almost all those years spent at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex (EKCC), where he started as a corrections officer and through skill, dedication, and experience moved through the ranks to running the facility. EKCC holds the largest offender population in all of Corrections and running such a facility is not easy, but McKenzie's hard work and leadership has made sure that EKCC operates smoothly and safely. He continually works to improve the facility and to ensure employees have strong guidance. In addition to his leadership at EKCC, he's an active member of the Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency and other corrections-related organizations, all with a goal of helping improve his chosen career field. Shawn McKenzie's hard work, excellence, and eagerness to constantly improve his facility sets a high mark for anyone choosing to follow him in this field and as a result he is a deserving recipient of the 2025 Warden of the Year Award.

Commissioner's Award

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2025 Commissioner's Award



Vanda Adamson (left) and Trinity Adkins (right)
Award presented by Commissioner Cookie Crews

In October 2024, the Warden at Western KY Correctional Complex (WKCC) notified Administrative Services that all Fiscal Staff were on extended leave or had put in their 2 week notice within 24 hours. Administrative Services management immediately started planning to keep the WKCC fiscal operations functioning in the interim while staff was hired. Vanda Adamson and Trinity Adkins from the Administrative Services Procurement Branch-having offices at WKCC-immediately started coordinating and helping with daily fiscal operations at WKCC. Their hard work and dedication helped quickly resolve a major issue. They stayed in place for four months simultaneously managing WKCC fiscal workload and some partial procurement duties. Both Vanda and Triniti express a work ethic and professionalism that make them worthy of a 2025 Commissioner's Award.

2025 Commissioner's Award



Michael Thorne Roberts

On Friday, May 16, 2025, Laurel County was ravaged by a tornado that destroyed 280 homes and claimed 19 lives. The mother-in-law and father-in-law of a District 20 employee lost their home. The following day, they began cleaning up what was left of their home and attempted to salvage what they could. Michael Thorne Roberts drove from his home in Pulaski County to help the family-people he didn't even know, doing some of the hardest work imaginable, taking a house piece by piece and putting it into a dumpster to be hauled away. He didn't have to do any of this, but he felt obligated to help a co-worker in need. This is an example for everyone to follow and it is for this reason that Michael Thorne Roberts is deserving of a 2025 Commissioner's Award.

2025 Commissioner's Award



Jeri Hines-Central Office

Award presented by Commissioner Cookie Crews

As the Commissioner's executive assistant, Jeri Hines is the heartbeat of DOC's operations. She begins each day with a positive attitude that is contagious throughout the office. Her unique ability to blend professionalism with personality creates an environment that is both productive and uplifting. Jeri brings both clarity and calm to every task. Her responsibilities extend far beyond the Commissioner's Office. Jeri supports not one, but two deputy commissioners with efficiency, care, and willingness to take on any task – no matter how big or small. Her dependability and "can-do" spirit have made her the go-to person in our office. When something needs to get done, we all know we can count on her. Jeri is also committed to personal and professional growth. She continuously seeks to expand her knowledge and skills, showing that she is not only an exceptional assistant today but an even better for the future. She is a deserving recipient of a 2025 Commissioner's Award.

2025 Commissioner's Award



Jordan Ratliff-Northpoint Training Center *Award presented by Commissioner Cookie Crews*

At the start of this year's legislative session, a controversial and sensitive issue was immediately brought to the forefront. With the proposal of Senate Bill 2, the Department suddenly found itself under the spotlight over transgender medical care for inmates. The threats that followed were serious enough that signs identifying our offices were taken down, and Correctional Officer Jordan Ratliff was assigned to provide extra security at Central Office. Every day for several weeks, Jordan sat at a small table near the entrance—quiet, observant, and a little mysterious at first. Jordan was always there with a smile, a quick joke, an open door, or an extra set of hands when people needed help carrying something. His easy-going attitude and friendly presence quickly made him a favorite around the building. We're so thankful we had Jordan with us during a challenging time. He brought a calm, cheerful energy we didn't know we needed, which makes him a deserving recipient of the 2025 Commissioner's Award.

2025 Commissioner's Award



Jerry Sudduth-Public Affairs

Jerry Sudduth, Justice Program Supervisor for Public Affairs, has been awarded the Commissioner's Award in recognition of his exceptional contributions to communications across the Kentucky Department of Corrections. Last year, Beth Moore assumed leadership of the Public Affairs Office and under her guidance, Jerry worked to reshape the department's public voice, bringing new energy, clarity, and creativity to our messaging. His work has been especially impactful in revitalizing our social media presence, turning it into a dynamic platform that highlights the people, programs, and progress within corrections. His efforts have been good for morale in the Department, initiating beneficial conversations of current and former employees through highlighting DOC's past as well as its present. Through thoughtful storytelling and strategic outreach, Jerry has helped foster stronger connections with the public and elevate the visibility of our mission.

Hero Award

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2025 Hero Award



Joseph Sibrel (left) and Kristopher Johnson (right)
Awards presented by Shannon Butrum

On March 11, 2025, Lieutenant Joseph Sibrel and CTO Kristopher Johnson responded to the academic school due to an inmate stepping out of the bathroom who just committed self-harm. Lieutenant Sibrel placed pressure on the inmate's arm. Sibrel and Johnson made a makeshift tourniquet with an ink pen and a rubber band to stop the bleeding from the inmate's arm. The makeshift tourniquet controlled the bleeding and medical staff were able to stabilize the inmate so that he could be taken to the hospital. The quick actions of Sibrel and Johnson in this moment contributed to the inmate surviving. They are a true example of what it means to be a hero — not for recognition, but out of a deep commitment to doing what is right. For these reasons Lieutenant Sibrel and CTO Johnson are fully deserving of a 2025 Hero Award.

2025 Hero Award



Amy Bayless – Probation and Parole District 7
Award presented by Commissioner Cookie Crews

Probation and Parole Officer Amy Bayless has, in two separate actions conducted herself in a heroic manner. While officers Amber Emmett, Amanda Parton & Amy Bayless were conducting home visits in the freezing cold, they noticed a juvenile female who appeared to be in distress. The juvenile was visibly shaking from the cold as she did not have a coat and crying hysterically. They immediately pulled over and Bayless unselfishly put her coat around the juvenile. The only information the juvenile disclosed was her name. As she sat in the vehicle in attempts to get warm, local units responded to gather further information and Officers later learned that the juvenile had been listed as missing. In a separate incident, Bayless, while conducting home visits witnessed a juvenile who crashed his bicycle. The juvenile appeared to have seriously injured himself-panicking and bleeding profusely. Bayless quickly rendered aid to the juvenile. Officers contacted his mother to alert her of the situation as he needed further medical care. Officer Bayless' heightened situational awareness, compassion for others, and strong community presence demonstrate why she is a deserving recipient of the Hero Award

2025 Hero Award



Cory Lawson-Southeast State Correctional Complex *Award presented by Commissioner Cookie Crews*

On January 26, 2025, Correctional Officer Cory Lawson's quick thinking saved the lives of his roommate's fiancée and their new baby. She suddenly went into a very swift labor. Lawson first called 911, but due to the rural area their response time was approximately 45 minutes, and the delivery had already begun. Lawson immediately went into action, gathering towels and other supplies while phoning neighbors he knew had medical expertise. With the help of Lawson and some good neighbors, baby Owen James Maggard was born without complications in the living room of the apartment Lawson and baby Owen's father shared. The story doesn't end there, though. Since the baby was such a surprise, nothing was bought, and no one was prepared for a baby. The home that baby Owen was delivered in was occupied by two bachelors. Lawson didn't stop with the delivery: he started making calls and coordinating with his Corrections family at SSCC, and within 24 hours of the baby being born, they all came together and created a nursery that was equipped with everything that a new baby would need. The house was deep cleaned and transformed into a home that was ready for the Maggard family and Uncle Cory.

Rookie of the Year Award

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2025 Rookie of the Year



Nicolle Baker – District 5 Probation and Parole *Award presented by Commissioner Cookie Crews*

Nicolle Baker began her employment with Probation and Parole January 2, 2025, since that time she has demonstrated remarkable motivation and an eagerness to learn her role as a Probation and Parole Officer. Baker graduated from Basic Academy February 28, 2025, where she earned the Top Shot Award. Since returning from the Academy, she has resumed a full caseload. Baker is a quick learner, accepts feedback and seeks answers when necessary. She recently brought to Supervisory staff's attention additional substance abuse resources that can be utilized to benefit the client and is now being implemented district wide. In the field, Baker demonstrates observational and situational awareness far above the norm for officers with little field experience. During a routine home visit with two colleagues, she provided valuable observation skills when several clients were unexpectedly present, resulting in multiple felony arrests. She helped maintain control of the situation until local law enforcement arrived. Baker also exhibited exceptional communication skills when dealing with a suicidal client and was able to help her co-worker bridge a point of impasse when this same offender had been placed in handcuffs and a release of information needed signed. She utilizes past experiences, her passion for helping others, and knowledge of policy to assist in addressing her client's needs. For all these reason Officer Nicolle Baker is truly deserving of the 2025 Rookie of the Year Award.

Lucille Hurt Robuck Commitment to Corrections Award

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2025 Lucille Hurt Robuck Commitment to Corrections Award



Dr. Connie White – Commonwealth of Kentucky Department of Public Health

When we talk about success, we often think of talent and skill. But the true essence of greatness is measured by dedication, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to the greater good. Dr. Connie White embodies all these qualities and more. She has shown an extraordinary level of passion and dedication to corrections and has been a steadfast partner with Commissioner Crews and the Department of Corrections, working tirelessly to ensure the health and safety of our population. From championing essential vaccinations like Hepatitis A, Hepatitis C, and COVID-19, to advocating for the 340B program and connecting the Department to public health resources across our communities, her impact is profound. The difference she has made extends far beyond policy; it is seen in the improved health and well-being of those we serve. For these reasons and many more, we are proud to honor Dr. Connie White with the Lucille Hurt Robuck “Commitment to Corrections” award. This award is a testament to her exceptional talent, tireless effort, and the positive ripple effects of her contributions.

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